■ BUSINESS / B1

BIR blames increased use of tax credit certificates for shortfall

■ METRO / A17

Grenade blast rocks private school in QC; no persons hurt

■ NEWS / A16

House still millionaires club; Rep. Cynthia Villar is the richest

■ ACROSS / A13

Town mayor suspected in journalist's murder stopped from leaving RP

Oracion's triumph thrills Palace, Lucban residents

WHEN LEO ORACION'S NEIGHBORS IN Lucban, Quezon, heard that he had reached the summit of Mt. Everest, they broke into applause.

"This is a big honor for Lucban," Peter Oracion, a brother of Leo's, said in Filipino over GMA 7's early evening newscast. "Of all the people in our town, only he had the inner strength to climb Everest."

Even as a boy, Leo was into sports like

ORACION'S/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, May 18, 2006 ★★
6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 159 P18

Feast of crispy pata, lechon awaits Everest conquerors

By Christian V. Esguerra

EVERY DISH THEY MISSED IN SCALING THE world's tallest mountain they will find on the table when they get home.

Nothing short of a feast is being prepared for Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata by their colleagues in the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE). There will be crispy *pata, lechon, shawarma*, and, of course, hugs.

FEAST/ A4

CONQUERED as of 3:30 p.m Nepal time (5:30 p.m. here), May 17, 2006. (Photographed by Jon-jon Rufino from about 6,000 meters (about 20,000 feet) on the northern route to the peak.

Pinoy on top of the world

THE CONQUEROR, Leo Oracion, hones his mountaineering skills at Muztagh Ata in Tibet, China, on April 7, making it to its summit of 24,757 feet where he planted the Philippine colors.

FIRST PHILIPPINE MT EVEREST EXPEDITION

32-year-old Leo Oracion reaches Everest summit

By Alcuin Papa

TRIUMPH AND DEEP EMOTION MARKED THE announcement yesterday of triathlete Leo Oracion that he had made it to the summit of Mt. Everest.

"The Philippine eagle has landed," was the radio message of the first Filipino to set foot on the roof of the world, according to Regie Pablo, team leader of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE), of which Oracion is a member.

The 32-year-old Oracion reached the summit at 3:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. Philippine time), Pablo said, citing information relayed in a phone call by the FPMEE's Arturo Valdez, who is at the Everest Base Camp (5,400 meters or 17,700 feet).

The adventure racer and lead climber for the FPMEE would have reached the peak earlier in the day but was reportedly bogged down by "traffic" on the trail.

He was among a 30-member team composed of Swiss, Korean and American mountaineers as well as Sherpas, indigenous people who serve as guides and climbing partners.

The team was slowed down considerably upon reaching the Hillary Step, a 40-foot wall of rock around an hour to the summit.

"This is a big accomplishment for a country at sea level," Pablo told the INQUIRER just after he got the news.

"We have no experience with alpine conditions; this is alien to us. It's like putting a Filipino on the moon. We also showed the other expeditions our positive values and outlook on things," he said.

Pablo also said Oracion's feat would put the Philippines on the international mountaineering map: "It's a boost to the reputa-

PINOY/ A4

Gov't posts rare budget surplus in April

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT POSTED A rare budget surplus in April, five times higher than the surplus posted a year earlier, as lower expenditures made up for weaker-than-expected income tax revenues.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves yesterday said the government had a budget surplus of P17.6 billion in April, with revenues reaching P95 billion and expenditures amounting to P77.4 billion.

The budget surplus in the same month last year amounted to P3.3 billion.

Teves said the P50-billion budget deficit for the first four months was also below the shortfall of P60.1 billion a year earlier, putting the government on track in meeting its budget deficit target of P125 billion compared to last year's P146.8 billion.

The surplus boosted Philippine dollar bonds, with bonds due in 2031 and 2016 rising three-eighths of a point on expectations of sustained improvements in the

GOV'T/ A4

YAN ANG MERRY KRISMAS!

Impeach bid ushers in early Christmas

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION ALLIES in the House of Representatives can't wait for the opposition to revive impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo, hoping it would usher in an early Christmas.

"I am in receipt of numerous requests from majority solons requesting its certain filing," said Rep. Rolex Suplico in a telephone interview.

"They said that the

IMPEACH/ A6

As chapel bells ring, Albay villagers 'evacuate'

By Edgar Alejo
and Niño Jesus Orbeta
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

STO. DOMINGO, ALBAY—CHAPEL bells rang at around 5:45 a.m. yesterday, sending dozens of villagers, including invalid elders and toddlers borne on their fathers' shoulders, rushing out of their huts to high ground in Barangay Buhatan here.

The mock tsunami warning also set off alarms from Guam to Singapore as two dozen Pacific Rim nations held an unprecedented drill organized after Asia's monster tsunami of 2004.

The massive drill, dubbed the "Exervice Pacific Wave 2006," was conducted over two days that saw several real earthquakes hit the region, including one north of New Zealand that triggered a re-

AS CHAPEL/ A6

CIVIL DEFENSE

NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

FROM GUAM TO THE PHILIPPINES, a mock tsunami warning sends villagers to higher ground during the unprecedented drill covering 24 Pacific and Asian nations. In Sto. Domingo, Albay, the elderly and toddlers on their father's shoulders march out of their huts as the village chapel bells sound an alarm for immediate evacuation.

Opus Dei in RP: It began with 3 Harvard boys

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(First of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

JESUS ESTANISLAO WAS PURsuing a doctorate degree in economics at Harvard University in 1961 when he met a group of Filipinos raising funds for a chapel of Opus Dei close to the university in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"I thought I should do my part," narrates Dr. Estanislao, 66, noted economist and former finance secretary in the Corazon Aquino administration. An Opus Dei numerary, Estanislao had served as Opus Dei regional director for Asia.

"Then a priest of the Opus Dei assigned there—Fr. Alfonse Lecomte Genoa—told me that it was not I who would do the work." In other words, it was God who was going to do the work through the worker.

"It was the first time it was said to me that way," recalls Estanislao. That was how he began to understand Opus Dei ("God's work" in Latin) and what this institution within the Catholic Church was all about.

Estanislao wasn't in a spiritual search mode at that time. He had studied in Catholic universities—the Divine Word Missionaries' San Carlos University in Cebu for college and the Jesuits' Fordham University in New York for his master's. Priesthood or membership in a religious group was never in his

OPUS DEI/ A15

Critics pan 'Da Vinci' in Cannes

CANNES, FRANCE—"THE DA Vinci Code" drew lukewarm praise, shrugs of indifference, some jeering laughter and a few derisive jabs on Tuesday from arguably the world's toughest movie crowd—critics at the Cannes Film Festival.

The year's most anticipated movie, "The Da Vinci Code," has sparked protests from Christian groups as far away as South Korea, Thailand and India.

Protest actions included boycotts, a hunger strike and attempts to block or shorten screenings.

The movie was a generally faithful adaptation of Dan Brown's best seller, spinning a murder thriller that stems from a cover-up of secrets about Chris-

CRITICS/ A15

SC chief: We uphold civil liberties vs gov't action

By Armand N. Nocum

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PAnganiban yesterday said that the Supreme Court was asserting its independence when it struck down as unconstitutional acts of President Macapagal-Arroyo regarded as inimical to civil liberties.

In a speech before graduate students of the Georgetown Law Center in Washington, Panganiban said that the court's recent decisions affirmed its commitment to "safeguard the liberty of our people and to nurture their prosperity, while upholding the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary."

Panganiban referred to "landmark" rulings on petitions assailing Executive Order No. 464 banning officials from congressional inquiries, the Calibrated Preemptive Response (CPR) policy against demonstrators and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017 that placed the country under a weeklong state of emergency in February.

"In all these cases, the Supreme Court upheld the primacy of civil liberties over governmental actions," Panganiban said.

He stressed that any move to suppress the rights of Filipinos in exchange for economic progress would not succeed. "Filipinos may endure occasional hunger, but they will never tolerate injustice and indignity for long."

He said this was the reason President Ferdinand Marcos' martial law regime failed to produce long-term economic progress.

Panganiban also said that unlike its foreign counterparts, the Philippine court cannot adopt the "view that courts exist in a vacuum," given the "stark realities of poverty in our country."

Thus, he said, the Philippine judiciary must work hard at contributing to the country's prosperity. Panganiban said liberty and

SC CHIEF/ A6

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, the rest of Western Luzon and Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/05/17/06

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

STOP
CHA-CHA

STOP: Anti-Cha-cha leaders Luz and Drilon

ITAGUYOD ITAGUYOD ITAGUYOD ITAGUYOD
PARLIAMENTARYO PARLIAMENTARYO PARLIAMENTARYO

...AND GO: Pro Cha-cha advocates led by Raul Lambino

JOAN BONDOC

Cha-cha foes unfazed by dialogue

By TJ Burgonio

THE NEWLY ORGANIZED STOP Cha-cha coalition says it is not daunted by the agreement of the Senate and House of Representatives to discuss constitutional reform, and it is determined to mount more road shows and file more cases in court to derail any move to amend the Constitution while President Macapagal-Arroyo is in power.

Members of the coalition are also confident that the senators would not bend over backwards and agree to sit with the administration-dominated House in a constituent assembly to amend the 1987 Charter.

By agreeing to the dialogue, the Senate was merely performing its role in the system of checks and balances, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said yesterday.

"I think that the Senate is being true to its mandate of making democratic institutions work, defying what Malacañang is doing, which is to corrupt all democratic institutions," she said at a public forum in Makati.

"It is Malacañang that is in a panic because their plans are not coming to fruition as promised by their operators," she added.

Soliman, together with nine resigned Cabinet colleagues, is a member of the Black & White Movement which is part of the STOP (Sa Tamang Oras at Paraan) Cha-cha coalition that includes people like former President Corazon Aquino, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Senate President Franklin Drilon and other political, business and youth leaders.

Senators and congressmen agreed to the dialogue in last Tuesday's meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Committee called by Ms Arroyo to discuss priority measures.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said yesterday that the Lower House would not insist on the two chambers voting as one in a constituent assembly if they agreed beforehand on what constitutional amendments to adopt.

"If they agree to amend the Constitution, why not?" Nograles said in an interview. "What is important is the finished product. We could do it whether voting separately or jointly as long as it's a done deal."

"As soon as we can reach an agreement on which provisions would be revised, it will now be easier to determine if we move forward with the Cha-cha through Constituent Assembly, which is favored by most congressmen, or through a Constitutional Convention, which is preferred by the Senate," Nograles added.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was "gladdened" by the development.

"As the Senate and the House leaderships prepare for talks, we are hopeful that they will find a middle ground to move forward Charter change," Bunye said in a statement.

At yesterday's STOP Cha-cha forum, Drilon allayed fears that the Senate had softened up on its stand that both chambers must vote separately.

"Contrary to the spin, nothing happened yesterday except an agreement that our chairs on constitutional amendments will sit down today and talk. Nothing else has changed," Drilon said.

"All this talk about the Constitution being amended by July 2007 is all part of propaganda. It's quite obvious that it will not happen," he added.

Former Sen. Vicente "Ting" Paterno said he believed it was necessary for the Senate to go to the dialogue "so that they will not be seen as intransigent." But he warned the Senate against involvement in a constituent assembly as it would be suspect and lose credibility.

Soliman said the anti-Cha-cha coalition would press ahead with its community-based forums in the countryside to explain the truth behind the administration's attempt to amend the Constitution via a constituent assembly or people's initiative.

The group is holding a program, dubbed "Tango"—for "Tanggalin Muna si Gloria Bago mag Cha-cha"— in front of the Commission on Elections at around 3 p.m. today.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, head of the coalition's legal task force, said the group was preparing to file more cases before courts in Caloocan, Makati, Pasig and Quezon cities, and Manila to stop the Comelec from verifying signatures in the administration-orchestrated people's initiative. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño*

Senators propose amendments to rules on inquiries

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PANGILINAN

A DAY AFTER SENATORS ATtended a meeting in Malacañang, some of them yesterday sought to amend the Senate rules governing inquiries in aid of legislation supposedly to encourage witnesses to appear in its hearings.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate rules committee, said the revision of the rules on Senate inquiries would hopefully "lead to better cooperation between the Senate and the executive department."

The proposed amendments would undoubtedly please Malacañang, which has branded the hearings as "in aid of destabilization" and sought to derail them by issuing Executive Order 464.

Pangilinan and Senators Ralph Recto, Manuel "Mar" Roxas II and Pia Cayetano filed Senate Resolution 482 despite an earlier Supreme Court ruling declaring as unconstitutional parts of EO 464 particularly those barring government officials from appearing in congressional hearings without the President's consent. Malacañang has said it would seek a reconsideration of the SC ruling.

In their resolution, the four senators proposed the addition of six provisions, which are intended to "rights of a person appearing in or affected" by the Senate inquiries.

Advance copy

The new provisions include requiring a potential witness to submit his or her written testimony three days in advance, the hiring of a lawyer who shall help the committee screen the testimony, the holding of executive sessions for confidential matters, and giving a person to be mentioned by a witness the opportunity to testify to answer allegations against him or her.

"My fellow senators and I are proposing amendments ... in hopes of assuring witnesses that their rights will be respected and to encourage them to appear before Senate investigations in aid of legislation," Pangilinan said.

He said the new provisions were meant to address the concerns of persons appearing in the Senate, including government officials, that their rights will be respected as mandated by the Constitution.

"These proposed amendments would also ensure that the cooperation of witnesses would not lead to their rights being prejudiced. We hope this too may lead to better cooperation between the Senate and the executive department," Pangilinan said.

New rules

The new rules are:

- Every investigation shall specify the laws, orders, rules that will be reviewed
- The rights of a witness appearing in or affected by an inquiry shall be respected
- Every witness intending or invited to appear before an investigation shall submit a written statement of his/her testimony at least three days before the scheduled appearance unless the majority of the members of the committee determines the urgency of one's testimony in which case the witness will be excused from this requirement.

This requirement for an advance copy of a testimony has been raised by pro-administration senators during the controversial Senate "jueteng" investigation where members of the President's family were implicated.

- Holding of an executive session when: matters concern national security or committee procedure; when testimony will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure professional standing of an individual, or expose him or her to public contempt and violate his or her right to privacy; when testimony will disclose the identity of an informer or law enforcer.
- The committee shall hire a lawyer to "assist the committee in evaluating the testimony of the witness and in distinguishing between admissible and inadmissible testimony."
- Giving a right to the impugned person to file a sworn statement or personally appear to testify or submit questions in writing that would be used for the cross-examination of the witnesses.

Gonzalez fires back at Cuenco

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY Raul Gonzalez yesterday dared Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco to join the Batasan 5 as part of their legal team even as he denied accusations that the Department of Justice is dictated by a Marcosian thinking.

"You may have the Marcosian thinking in your head because you cooperated with Marcos from Day 1 of Martial Law. We can compare our records during Martial Law and see who was dancing to the Marcosian music, which I never did," said Gonzalez, a human rights lawyer during the Marcos years, in a letter to Cuenco.

Gonzalez was reacting to statements from Cuenco for the President not to listen to sychopants like Gonzalez who figure in legal entanglements like the pursuit of five party-list congressmen accused of rebellion. Cuenco said such moves only work against efforts to unite those in government.

Gonzalez said he could not understand why Cuenco cannot see the need for the DOJ to go after those out to bring the government down.

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia
AiA
Trucks & Equipment
4-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
AUCTION STYLE : PARADE
MAY 24, 25, 26 & 27, 2006
(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday)
Sale Starts at 8:00 a.m.
UPGRADED QUALITY UNITS & LATE MODEL TRUCKS!
OVER 1,800 ITEMS TO BE SOLD
Inspection Dates:
MAY 20, 21, 22 & 23
(Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday)
We are awarded as the Philippines' No. 1 USED TRUCK DEALER
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel #: (63-47) 252-3333 • Fax #: (63-47) 252-6840 · (63-47) 252-1441
ORIX METRO Leasing & Finance Corp Tel: (02) 858-8888
Inquire & Register Online via: http://www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com Email: aiainc@subictel.com

No permanent chief of NBI yet; Mantaring is acting director

By Christine O. Avendaño

FIVE MONTHS AFTER THE DEATH of Reynaldo Wycoco, Malacañang has yet to come up with his permanent replacement as head of the National Bureau of Investigation.

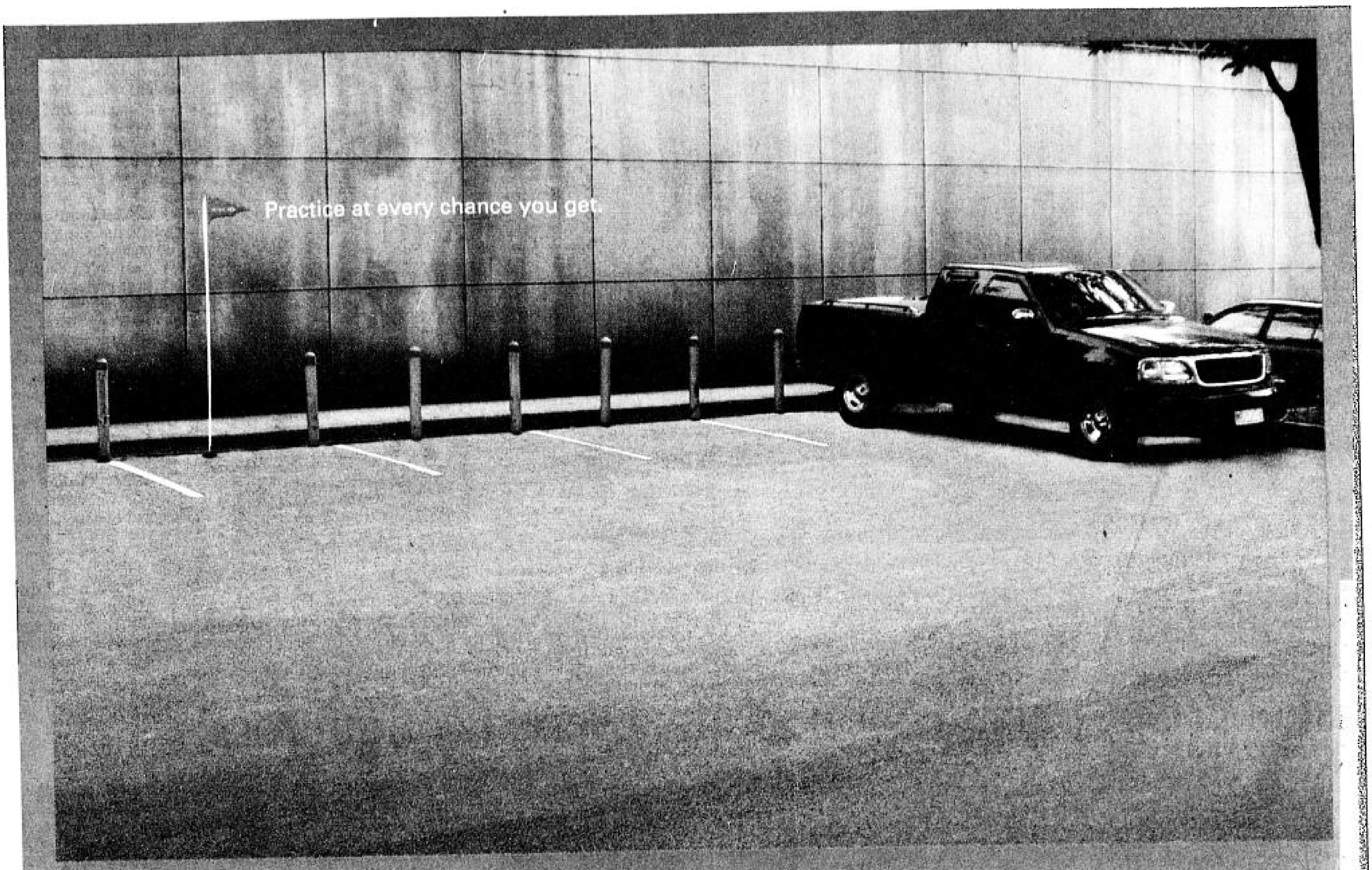
This after Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced yesterday that from being officer in charge of the NBI, Nestor Mantaring was designated as its acting director.

President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Mantaring last April 19 and his appointment paper was released last April 28.

Wycoco succumbed to a stroke in December last year.

In his weekly news conference, Ermita also announced the appointment of five other officials to various positions. They were appointed to these positions by the President from May 3 to 4.

These were former Philippine National Police chief Roberto Lastimoso who was appointed as Director 5 of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3; Josefina Santos as acting member of the Board of Pardons and Parole; Federico Puno as member of the Board of Directors of the Manila Electric Company, Antonio Habana as member and chair of the Board of Directors of the Bataan Technology Park Inc; and Stefano Sano, member of the board of Directors of the Bataan Technology Park Inc.



In partnership with ANC Caltex Techron Cross Nokia TaylorMade

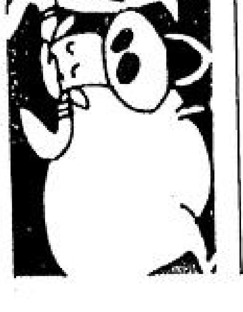
At the HSBC Ace Golf Challenge, every Hole-in-One gets you an easy million.
That's 6 Hole-in-One prizes totaling P3 million in cash and 3 million miles.

Tee off is on 29 May 2006 at the Eagle Ridge Golf Course in General Trias, Cavite. Open to all amateur golfers, the tournament offers three P1 million cash and three 1 million air miles in Hole-in-One prizes up for grabs. To top it off, the eight class winners in the tournament will be given the opportunity to watch their favorite golf stars in action at the HSBC Champions tournament this November in Shanghai, China. So start working on that swing.

HSBC Ace Golf Challenge

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.



NAIS MO BANG MAG-SUBSCRIBE NG INQUIRER?

CALL THE INQUIRER SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE 896-6000

marie france

Hottie.
Sexy.
Mommy.

The years you've spent rearing your kids should reflect on your children's behavior, not on your figure. Come to Marie France and get a body that is far better than the first time your man saw you. Just like Dawn and Lyn, you too can turn your flabs, sags and cellulite into curves he surely can't resist. Experience Marie France and uncover a slimmer and shapelier mother in you.

With Marie France, you will love your new sexy body. So will he.

CALL
894-BODY (2639)

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA • TEL: 961-2981 CEBU • TEL: 233-7637

Pinoy on top of the world

From page A1

tion of Filipinos in the mountaineering world. I think that in a very strong way we showed them what we are made of. All around the world, people will look at Filipinos with higher esteem."

Strategy

A second FPMEE climber, Erwin "Pastor" Emata, also 32, was expected to launch his own climb to the peak last night in the company of four climbers from Mallorca in Spain and their Nepalese guides, Valdez said.

He was expected to reach the summit today.

Pablo said the team split up Oracion and Emata as part of its "strategy"—"Just in case the weather turns bad, there is a climber on standby."

From the team's account, Oracion started off from Camp 4, the final way station at the rarefied air of 26,000 feet, on Tuesday night, and had been climbing since.

He had to fight off exhaustion, the thin air, and the cold (sometimes dropping to as low as -60 degrees Celsius) to reach the peak.

Oracion brought with him an oxygen tank, water and some personal effects, including a crayon drawing of the Philippine flag by his 5-year-old daughter.

Dream come true

In an interview aired over ABS-CBN, a principal sponsor of Oracion's climb, an emotional Valdez said a Filipino on top of Everest was for him "a dream come true."

THUMBS UP AND HIGH HOPES mark the launch of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition in March 2004. PDI PHOTO

"We showed the whole world that if we [get] our act together we can accomplish anything. Indeed, the Filipino can do it," Valdez said.

Pablo was full of praise for his teammate who, he said, climbed from Camps 3 to 4 without the aid of oxygen tanks.

"Leo is methodical with the things he does. He is a good person and he takes very good care of his teammates. He knows what he is doing, and his Sherpa is experienced," Pablo said.

Oracion was expected to reach Camp 3 last night, and to make the trek down for around eight hours today to reach Base Camp.

Next year, the whole FPMEE is scheduled to climb Everest (29,028 feet, or 8,848 meters) through the North and South routes.

Some will be chosen as climbers; the rest will serve as support teams.

Team members Pablo, Karina Davondon, Larry Honoridez, Janet Belarmino and Noelle Wenceslao were at the National Sports Grille in Greenbelt, Makati City, for a press conference when they heard the news of Oracion's feat.

When Pablo heard confirmation from Valdez, the team members erupted into shouts of joy. Shortly afterward, they gathered to say a quick prayer for the safety of Oracion on his descent and of Emata on his own assault.

"We have overcome every obstacle in our struggle. We thank those who supported us with their prayers," Honoridez told reporters at the venue.

Garduce

Oracion and Emata arrived at the Everest Base Camp on April 15. By then, rival climber Romi Garduce had been preparing for his own attempt to become the first Filipino to plant the national flag at the summit.

Garduce, 37, who had arrived at the Base Camp late in March, is due to reach the summit tomorrow, according to his principal sponsor, GMA 7. *With an AFP report*

Feast of crispy pata, lechon awaits Everest conquerors

From page A1

"They must have missed Filipino food so much during their stay at Mt. Everest, so we'll make sure that their stomachs will be full once they get back," said Carina Dayondon, who, along with Janet Belarmino and Noelle Wenceslao, spoke with the INQUIRER while awaiting news from the mountain yesterday.

Dayondon, Belarmino and Wenceslao, the only women in the 17-member FPMEE, were beaming with pride at the prospect that two of their fellow climbers were soon to reach the peak of Everest. (Oracion made it to the top yesterday, with Emata not too far behind.)

In mountain climbing, a team's success is measured when at least one member gets the job done, Belarmino explained.

Next year, the three women are scheduled to follow Oracion and Emata's lead. They are to leave tomorrow for an expedition in Alaska as part of their preparations.

Funniest

Wenceslao said the experience and triumph of their two colleagues would be invaluable in their effort to achieve a similar feat.

"They are two of the strongest members of our team, and we look up to them for inspiration and encouragement," she said.

And the funniest, too, the women said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ORACION: Eagle has landed

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMATA: Expected to reach summit today

"Their humor kept us alive during our treks," Dayondon said, recalling an instance when Emata showed up wearing a traffic aide's vest and knee-high socks.

But when it came to climbing mountains, Oracion and Emata were all business, and acted as big brothers to other members of the team.

Dayondon said the two mountaineers often stayed at the end of the line, encouraging disheartened climbers to go on and even carrying part of their load, and making sure that no one would be left behind.

Not impossible

Dayondon said the physical and mental strength of Oracion and Emata had long convinced their teammates that reaching the top of Everest would not be an impossible task for the two men.

"The capability is there. It's only the weather that will spell the difference," Wenceslao said.

The women got to know Oracion and Emata when they began training with the FPMEE in 2004.

In March, the five of them joined the Philippine Coast Guard as draftees for its quick-reaction and search-and-rescue missions.

"They will be a great asset to the organization," Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme, PCG spokesperson, told the INQUIRER.

Their compensation? The opportunity to rescue people in distress, and monthly pay ranging from P3,000 to P9,000.

Oracion's triumph thrills Palace, Lucban residents

From page A1

swimming, cycling and basketball, Peter said. He was in high school when he started climbing mountains.

"He would climb Mt. Banahaw over and over by himself," Peter said. "He would also jump backwards from Arko Bridge, but with a harness."

Family members were surprised at the huge undertaking that Leo's climb had become. But they said they had no doubt that he had the capability to make it.

Said Loreta Oracion of her elder brother: "Of course, all of us are very happy. We're so proud of my *kuya* because he has realized his dream. Even as a child, he wanted to climb mountains. He is always after adventure."

Loreta said the family was planning a reunion, perhaps even a small party, for her brother.

Also reportedly being planned were a special welcome by the Sangguniang Bayan and a motorcade for Lucban's native son.

Palace rejoicing

Early yesterday, with Oracion's feat yet to be confirmed, Malacañang could not contain its excitement and sent congratulations to him and Erwin "Pastor" Emata.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that the expected success of the two climbers showed "the indomitable spirit of ... men, especially if they're Filipinos."

"We're equal to anyone in the world," Ermita said, adding that the Palace was "rejoic[ing] that they're accomplishing this feat."

"You can imagine how the world will be looking at Filipinos being able to plant the Philippine flag on top of Mt. Everest," Ermita said. "We are proud of [them]."

Asked whether Malacañang would roll out the red carpet for the climbers, Ermita said he was "sure" they would be invited by President Macapagal-Arroyo, especially because she wanted Filipinos to take pride in the achievements of others.

Nervous

In Davao City, Pastor Emata's wife Mary Ann said she and the rest of the family were feeling nervous as he approached the summit of one of the world's most dangerous mountains.

Mary Ann said that while she and the family knew Pastor to be a seasoned mountain climber, they could not avoid worrying about his safety and that of the other members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition.

"We ask you to pray for their safety. Let us pray that their climb would be successful," she told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Mary Ann said she last spoke with her husband on Saturday: "He told me he was missing me and the children."

The Ematas have two children and live in Tagum City some 60 kilometers north of Davao.

Mary Ann quoted her husband as saying that he and the other climbers were fine.

"They will rest a little upon arriving at Camp 4, and start climbing again [Wednesday] evening," she said.

'Mama's boy'

By his wife's account, Pastor (nicknamed thus because of his religious bent) has been climbing mountains since he was 13—a passion that intensified in 1995 when his mother passed away.

"He was deeply hurt by his mother's death. His passion even became more intense because of that, so he climbed Mt. Apo and stayed there for two weeks," Mary Ann said.

She described him as a "Mama's boy."

Pastor completed a tourism and travel management course at the Mindanao Aeronautical Technical School in Davao City.

He is employed as a tourist guide and usually accompanies researchers. He is also a member of the Davao-based Sandawa Mt. Apo mountaineering club.

Rey Sumagaysay, a close friend and fellow climber in Davao, said Pastor had asked him during their most recent conversation to prepare a roast pig for his homecoming celebration.

He said he was not expecting Pastor to make good on the promise to become one of the first Filipinos to reach the summit of Everest.

"I told him to just plant our flag once he gets there," Sumagaysay said.

Under contract

In Bataan, the family of yet another mountaineer, Romi Garduce, is praying for God's providence to keep him safe and help him realize his dream of reaching the summit.

Romi's niece, Ella, said family members were gathering regularly for prayers. "We're behind him. We pray a lot, offer Masses and novenas," she said in a phone interview from the family home in Barangay Tinajero in Balanga City.

Citing an exclusive contract with GMA 7, family members declined to talk about how they were feeling about Romi's climb.

Romi, the Philippines' "highest altitude record holder," left Everest Base Camp on Sunday and was expected to reach Camp 3 yesterday or today.

He was expected to reach Camp 4 after another day of trekking. From there, he will make his final climb to the peak.

With reports from Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

---

Gov't posts rare budget surplus in April

From page A1

government's finances.

Some analysts saw the surplus as a sign that fiscal reforms—including the implementation of the 12-percent expanded value-added tax (VAT) in February—were taking hold in the Philippines, Asia's largest issuer of sovereign debt after Japan.

The unimpressed

But not everyone was impressed with the latest numbers. "The details were less than stellar—with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) undershooting its revenue target for April by around 10 percent," said Sin Beng Ong, economist at JP Morgan Chase.

Expenditures in April shrank 7 percent to P77.4 billion while spending in the first four months of the year ballooned 10 percent to P350 billion as the government coughed up money for the construction of bridges, schools and roads after years of scrimping.

Government expenditures were expected to rise in May and June as the government planned to accelerate capital investment before the rainy season sets in.

More work needed

"The surplus was aided by lower expenditures. But since we expect cash disbursements to be higher in May and June, we have to work on the revenue side if we want to stay on track of the fiscal target for the full year," Teves said in a press conference.

The BIR, which accounts for two-thirds to three-fourths of government revenues, collected P71.4 billion in April against its target of P78.6 billion.

Teves said income tax payments in April of P48.5 billion were 15 percent below target as large companies used their existing tax credits against their tax payments, resulting in lower cash collections. *(Related story on Business, Page B1.)*

"It's really in the income tax that we had a setback," Teves said. "The challenge on the revenue side is to make sure we don't have the same kind of difficulty as we had in April."

In April, VAT collections amounted to only P10.98 billion, slightly lower than the BIR target of P11.4 billion.

The government is banking on extra revenues of about P75 billion a year from the 12-percent VAT.

Teves said the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which collects tariffs on imports, collected P16.3 billion, slightly lower than its P16.51-billion target for the month.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, however, disputed the figures of the finance department, saying the bureau actually collected P16.58 billion. Morales said the BOC and the DOF would be reconciling the collection figures.

The Bureau of the Treasury, which collects dividends from state-owned firms, collected P4.8 billion during the month, slightly higher than its P4.7-billion target.

Target too high

The BIR wants the finance department to lower the bureau's revenue goal of P675 billion this year, up 26 percent from 2005, saying the target may be too high.

The BOC is also seeking a lowering of its collection target this year, saying the government's decision to reduce oil tariffs, which is estimated to result in foregone revenues of as much as P5.2 billion, should result in a corresponding decrease in its collection target.

But Teves insisted the goals were "realistic and attainable."

He added the government would not change the combined revenue target of P872 billion—up 29 percent from 2005—for the BIR and Bureau of Customs this year.

The government, which is fighting corruption, evasion and weak implementation of tax laws, wants to cut this year's budget deficit to P125 billion, or 2.1 percent of gross domestic product from P146.5 billion, or 2.7 percent of GDP, in 2005.

In 2005, the government, which spends about a third of its budget on interest payments for about $76 billion in foreign and domestic debt, had budget surpluses in April, June and August.

With a report from Reuters

1,300 soldiers set to evict ex-Navy officers

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY HAS FORMED a 1,300-strong team to evict over 50 retired Navy and Marine senior officers from their quarters in Fort Bonifacio this Saturday.

In a show of force, 100 junior officers and 1,200 soldiers assembled yesterday at the Marine Headquarters grandstand, a stone's throw away from the disputed Bonifacio Naval Station (BNS) quarters.

"They should be ashamed of themselves. Where is their shame?" Task Force "Balik-Bahay" commander, Marine Lt. Col. Gioksan Dammang told the troops in a "pep talk."

The retired officers showed no sign of leaving their individual quarters inside the BNS which they have claimed for their own in the past 15 years.

They maintained they have legally acquired the 20-hectare lot through a title issued in 1992 to their group, the Naval Officers Village Association Inc. (NOVAI).

While the case is pending in court, past Navy leaderships have allowed these retired officers to stay on, much to the frustration of senior officers still in active duty who were entitled to the quarters.

Three former Navy chiefs, Vice Admirals Ernesto de Leon, Victorino Hingco and Mariano Dumancas even continued to use their quarters long after they have retired.

De Leon retired in 2005, Hingco in 2003 and Dumancas in 1994.

Last Friday, the Navy served a "final notice of eviction" to 56 of the nearly overstaying officers. They were given until Saturday to leave their quarters.

De Leon and Hingco and retired Rear Admiral Octavio Dauz have sent word to the Navy leadership they would move out before the deadline.

D-Day for eviction

"Saturday is our D-Day for the eviction. I don't care (if they resist eviction). We will follow orders," said Dammang, who liberally used cuss words in his pep talk.

No ranking Navy or Marine officials were around at the troop formation, except for Navy spokesman Capt. Geronimo Malabanan and Marine spokesman Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan.

Malabanan said the task force was given a total of 40 M35 trucks, forklifts, and payloaders to do its job. "We will not extend the deadline unless they secure a (court) order," he said.

One of those to be evicted, retired Rear Admiral Pio Garrido Jr. told reporters he would not leave his quarters.

He appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the eviction, as he invoked a proclamation issued by her father, the late president Diosdado Macapagal in 1965 that declared areas of the Fort Bonifacio military reservation as housing sites.

The NOVAI acquired a land title to the BNS officers' quarters in 1992 on the basis of Macapagal's Proclamation 461. In 1994, the NOVAI secured an injunction from the Court of Appeals against their eviction.

"We will not leave on Saturday... We are very afraid and anxious because more than one thousand soldiers are following illegal orders," said Garrido, who spoke to reporters outside his quarters.

Other ranking officials who face eviction are former Marine commandants Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa and Emmanuel Teodosio; Rear Admiral Napoloen Baylon, Eriberto Varona, Manuel de Leon and Guerero de Guzman and Maj. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz.

The Navy said the overstaying officers have also piled up P7 million in unpaid electricity and water bills. Those with the highest debts are retired Commodore Julito Casillan with P212,626, Commodore Rene Leandro Ebro with P154,502 and Espinosa with P132,810.

DE CASTRO

Noli assures cardinal of gov't assistance for rail squatters

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO yesterday assured Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales of an "in-city resettlement and beneficiary-led development" for the 32,000 squatter families affected by the rehabilitation of the Philippine National Railway tracks or the Southrail project.

De Castro said the concerns raised by Rosales in his letter which was addressed to the Vice President in behalf of the relocated families were not inaccurate.

"It is unfortunate that some quarters have presented to the Archbishop issues that are either recycled, inaccurate or not in their proper context," De Castro in a letter-reply to Rosales.

"The welfare of the relocatees has always been a paramount concern to the government. We are extending all forms of assistance to ease their plight," he said.

The over $50-million government project will cover the Philippine National Railways' 36-kilometer railway from Caloocan City to Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Once completed, it will have the capacity to carry roughly 187,000 passengers a day.

In a letter to De Castro dated May 12, Rosales sought the latter's assurance that the displaced families would be relocated to a site with adequate facilities and would be given alternative "in-city relocation sites."

Rosales said that poor people living along the railroad tracks from Caloocan to Los Baños had come to him several times confiding their relocation problems such as children's education, family income, distant relocation and excessive concern for cut-off dates and deadlines regarding the relocation process.

Rosales also said that based on a study conducted by the Urban Poor Associates, the situation at the relocation site in Cabuyao, Laguna, was "seriously poor"—the water is not potable without boiling; there is still no light and family incomes have fallen to P5,568 on average a month from a pre-location level of P6,500 to P7,500," the cardinal's letter read.

Looking for solutions

De Castro said that while he recognized the difficulties of these affecred families, the said government housing sector had not ceased looking for solutions.

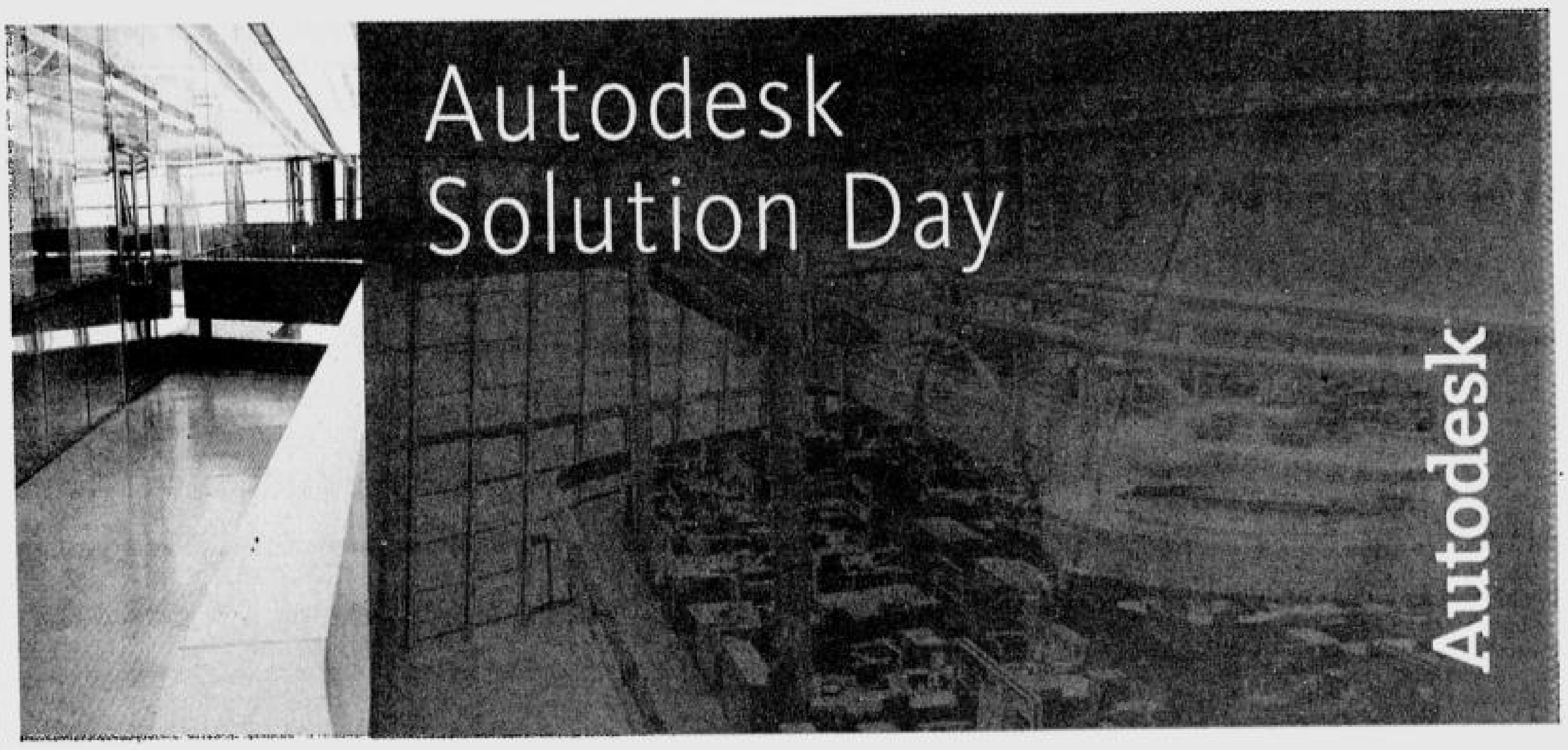
He said that since the relocation project began, he had been holding dialogues with the stakeholders including multilateral organizations, private sector groups, non-government organizations, peoples' organizations and the beneficiaries themselves, to minimize the dislocation of affected families.

De Castro also said that he was convinced an in-city resettlement and beneficiary-led development is the best approach to take in relocating the settlers along the North and South rails after a thorough review of several options presented.

"I have directed the agencies under me to ensure that this approach is presented and explained properly to the beneficiaries. They are the ones who will be affected by our actions," the Vice President said.

He pointed out that differences in positions notwithstanding, the government shelter sector had worked smoothly with various organizations assisting the relocatees.

These included the Homeless People's Federation assisted by Fr. Atilajano Fajardo, (CM of the Vincentian Missionary), the Diocese of Malolos through Fr. Dennis Espejo and Fr. Vince Reyes, the Gawad Kalinga led by Executive Director Antonio Meloto and the UN Habitat.



Accelerate Your Ideas

Great ideas alone are not enough.
The winner will be the one that gets them out into the market first.

Join us at **Autodesk Solution Day** and discover new and powerful solutions that will help to accelerate and realise your ideas - faster than ever before.

The premier Autodesk event will be one of the largest for design professionals in the Philippines. The event will feature the latest solutions from Autodesk 2007 family of products, including AutoCAD® 2007, Autodesk® Inventor® Professional 11, Autodesk Map® 3D 2007, Autodesk® Civil 3D® 2007, Autodesk® Revit® Building 9 and more.

Discover the latest developments in 2D & 3D modelling, visualization, 3D animation, data management and collaboration. Visit the Solutions Exhibition and network with experts and peers in one of the biggest events for design professionals in the manufacturing, infrastructure, building, and media & entertainment industries.

See AutoCAD 2007 up close and personal!

Presented by: Mark Strassman
Vice President, Marketing & Design, Platform Technology Division

It's what your ideas have been waiting for - design, visualize, and document your ideas clearly and efficiently with AutoCAD® software. From conceptual design through drafting and detailing, AutoCAD 2007 enables you to explore ideas like never before.

Admission is free. Seats are limited. Sign up today!
Online registration: http://asean.autodesk.com/solutionday
Call: Ashley at 633 9677
Email: ashley@c3igroup.com

Date: Tuesday, 6 June 2006
Venue: Makati Shangri-la Hotel
Rizal Ballroom, Level 2
Address: Ayala Avenue Corner
Makati Avenue, Makati City
1200, Philippines
Time: 8:30am - 5pm.

Discover hidden treasure!
Unlock your Treasure Chest at Autodesk Solution Day. Walk away with laptop, iPod, digital camera, HP iPaq Pocket PC and many more prizes to be won!

Conference Agenda

Please tick the conference session you would like to attend:

8:30 - 9:30AM	Registration & Exhibition
9:30 - 9:55 AM	Welcome & Opening Address
9:55 - 10:15 AM	Keynote Speech
10:15 - 11:15 AM	AutoCAD 2007 - Let Your Ideas Soar
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Autodesk Subscription Program
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Providing/Preparing a Skilled Workforce with Autodesk Certified Professional
11:45 AM	*Lunch Break/Breakout Sessions*

I am an Autodesk Subscription customer. I would like to attend the Subscription Luncheon*.

I am from Higher/Tertiary Education Institution. I would like to attend the Education Luncheon*.

*Autodesk reserves the right to verify customer details if necessary, before confirming the registration for the lunch

Manufacturing Solutions Breakouts:

1:30 - 2:30 PM	11 Great Reasons Why Autodesk Inventor 11 Is Number 1	☐
2:30 - 3:00 PM	The 2007 Revolution for Manufacturing Solutions -Part I	☐
3:00 - 3:30 PM	*Break*	
3:30 - 5:00 PM	The 2007 Revolution for Manufacturing Solutions -Part II	

Infrastructure Solutions Breakouts:

1:30 - 1:50 PM	Infrastructure Solutions - What's New and What's Hot	☐
1:50 - 2:30 PM	Unleashing the Power of Parametric Engineering	☐
2:30 - 3:00 PM	*Break*	
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Real Customer Successes. Accelerated.	☐
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Managing Information Assets Effectively Across the Entire Value Chain.	☐

Building Solutions Breakouts:

1:45 - 2:15 PM	Building Information Modelling - See. Model. Do
2:15 - 2:45 PM	*Break*
2:45 - 3:15 PM	Customer Success Story
3:15 - 3:45 PM	*Break*
3:45 - 4:15 PM	Customer Success Story

Media & Entertainment Breakouts:

1:30 - 2:00 PM	Visualise Your Ideas with Autodesk VIZ 2007	☐
2:00 - 2:30 PM	*Break*	
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Seamless Integration for Powerful Visualization Workflows	
3:00 - 3:30 PM	*Break*	
3:30 - 4:00 PM	Get More Out of Your Autodesk Inventor Visualization	☐

Note: The agenda is subject to change. Please visit http://asean.autodesk.com/solutionday for the latest agenda.

Please complete the form below and fax to 636 2871.

Name: ____________________
Job Title: ____________________
Company: ____________________
Address: ____________________
____
Tel: ____________ Fax: ____________
Email: ____________________

Main Sponsor: hp invent
Co-sponsor: LINKSYS® A Division of Cisco Systems, Inc.
Supported by: building
SOUTHEAST ASIA CONSTRUCTION

Autodesk, the Autodesk logo and all brand and product names above are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Autodesk, Inc., in the USA and/or other countries
Copyright 2006 Autodesk, Inc. All rights reserved

ROUSED FROM SLEEP, the "evacuees" dutifully file out of their barangay after the warning goes off.

WAITING FOR THE DRILL to start outside their home in Barangay Buhatan, Sto. Domingo, Albay, a woman and child get set to evacuate as soon as the tsunami alarm sounds.

PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS Y. ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

As chapel bells ring, Albay villagers 'evacuate'

From page A1

al, though minor, tsunami affecting only unpopulated islands.

It was the first-ever international tsunami drill that put to actual test the disaster-preparedness and response capabilities of tsunami-prone communities.

While they awaited the go-signal from civil defense officials, Buhatan villagers readied their food, light and sleeping provisions.

As they trekked to the designated upper and safer ground, the evacuees brought along thermos bottles, biscuits, pots of rice, pails and bottles of water, umbrellas and kerosene lamps.

A crippled man with backpack joined the moving crowd with infants, a pregnant woman and several old people getting help.

A dog showed up on the street to find his master. Children brought along their school bags while the mothers carried light essentials in plastic bags.

Participated in by 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including those in the Indian Ocean where the terrible tsunami occurred in December 2004, the two-day dry-run was able to test how fast the warnings were received and relayed from the national civil defense agencies down to the concerned local disaster coordinating councils.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center installed in Hawaii sent out the warnings about mock earthquakes to the respective national warning stations.

THE DISABLED are not exempted from participating in the drill that could one day save the entire barangay from a monster tsunami.

Bells peal

In Buhatan which has a voting population of around 700 and an estimated 1,400 families, the residents were roused from their sleep at around 3:30 a.m. by the pealing of a bell in the village chapel, located just some 20 meters away from the shoreline.

With a megaphone on one hand, a barangay tanod (village watchman) went around the cluster of huts, urging the residents to get ready for an evacuation.

When the second bulletin was received at 5:45 a.m., the bells successively rang, signaling immediate mass evacuation.

The villagers lined up along the barangay road and proceeded to an elevated area.

By 6:15 a.m., the barangay was virtually deserted as some 1,400 villagers were already settled on an elevated open field.

Roadside metal signs were set up by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) pointing the way to safety.

There were also signs at the coastline declaring danger areas and requesting the people to go to a higher elevation in times of earthquakes.

Boyet Rodriguez of the municipal mayor's office described the simulation exercise as giving importance to preparedness for possible hazards and disasters.

The tsunami drill highlighted the proper warning system that culminated with a mock evacuation, which was very orderly.

The quakes that struck Tuesday and Wednesday, the largest measuring magnitude 7.5, served as a vivid reminder of how seismically volatile the Pacific Rim can be. No damage or injuries were reported.

Vivid reminder

Wednesday's exercise was aimed at avoiding any repeat of the 2004 disaster in Asia, when killer waves hit a dozen nations and left 216,000 people dead or missing—many of them because they were not forewarned of the danger.

At the start of Wednesday's test, e-mails and faxes were sent and alarms sounded in monitoring stations in the participating nations to signal a mock magnitude 8.8 earthquake off the coast of Luzon.

The exercise followed a similar test on Tuesday, when officials simulated a scenario in which a 9.2-magnitude quake hit Chile, triggering a tsunami that would have affected much of the Pacific Ocean region.

In Malaysia, about 400 villagers living along the coast of Sabah state on Borneo Island were evacuated as part of the drill.

Malaysia's Meteorological Service said it received simulated earthquake and tsunami alerts from the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii and Japan's Meteorological Agency early Wednesday.

Renato Solidum, head of the Phivolcs, said he was impressed by the strong turnout for that country's exercise. About two-thirds of Buhatan's 1,200-plus villagers joined while the rest went to work outside the village.

Pablo Torrealba, a UN Development Program official who observed the drill, cited the enthusiastic response and close coordination among local officials.

"The message is that you need two combinations: well-coordinated national institutions and prepared communities. The combination will help to save lives," he told The Associated Press.

Real earthquakes

In Japan, Yuji Nishimae, an official at Japan's Meteorological Agency, said the exercise went as planned.

Several earthquakes hit the Pacific region during the two days of the drill, including temblors off New Zealand, Indonesia and the Pacific island nation of Tonga.

The latest, a magnitude 5.8-earthquake on Wednesday morning, rattled Tonga at the same time that emergency authorities on the country's islands were broadcasting simulated earthquake alerts as part of the Pacific-wide simulation.

Early Wednesday, New Zealand national civil defense controller Mike O'Leary said the 7.5-magnitude quake that hit north of that country's Kermadec Islands on Tuesday had generated a minor local tsunami that did not affect any populated areas.

Chris Ryan, of the National Meteorological and Oceanographic Center, the Australian organization that sends tsunami warnings to emergency officials, said the test went according to plan in Australia, despite the quakes.

"No major problems or unexpected events apart from a couple of earthquakes before the exercise started—real ones, that is," he said, referring to the quakes that jolted New Zealand and Indonesia.

Participants

On Tuesday, major participants included Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Australia, the United States, Canada and several Pacific islands.

Participants on Wednesday included the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Russia, China and several Pacific islands.

With a report from AP

Impeach bid ushers in early Christmas

From page A1

Palace's promises, including cash, projects and appointments, during last year's impeachment have not been complied with," said the opposition congressman from Iloilo.

After bungling the impeachment attempt against Ms Arroyo last year, Minority Leader Francis Escudero announced Monday the opposition would resume its bid to unseat the 59-year-old President when the Third Congress opens in July.

No visit from Santa

Escudero also threatened to expel from the minority bloc those who would not support the impeachment initiative. Last year, Ms Arroyo's majority allies soundly squelched the opposition's effort to oust her over allegations she stole the 2004 presidential election.

The Constitution allows only one impeachment case to be filed against the President in one year.

Suplico yesterday told reporters some administration lawmakers were unhappy that Malacañang had not lived up to promises they would be rewarded for nipping the impeachment move in the bud last year.

"Santa Claus did not visit us, as the Palace promised," Suplico quoted one disgruntled Arroyo ally.

Assistant Majority Leader Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City fumed at Suplico's swipe. "Must we be dragged into this spectacle of gutter politics once more?"

"Our people are already tired of too much politicking," said Puentevella, pointing out that the "impeachment circus," not Santa Claus, "was coming back to town."

"The Palace does not dictate on us and we in the majority have our own sense of discernment in deciding on any impeachment complaint," said Puentevella. "The minority are already in a panic mode because of their imminent defeat."

Kill move earliest

Rep. Salacnib Baterina of Ilocos Sur dismissed reports that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had ordered House supporters to kill at the earliest possible opportunity any impeachment case against the President this year.

"The rules on impeachment will be followed to the letter and we will be transparent in all our actions," said Baterina.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was more candid. "It's not really unusual for a member of Cabinet or Justice Secretary Gonzalez to take such a position."

Ermita said it was also only normal for the administration to say that it did not expect the move to unseat Ms Arroyo to prosper.

Rep. Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar said: "The biggest problem that the minority has to hurdle is not the process in the House but getting enough signatures. They set their own policy—no 79 signatures, no filing of raps. That's their setback."

He referred to the number of signatures needed to move the complaint to the Senate for trial.

Libanan pointed out that despite the efforts of the minority to bring the impeachment complaint to the Senate last year "51 signatures was the best they got even with the momentum of their Arroyo-oust campaign at that time."

No one to blame

"If they fail to get the magic number, they lose. Period. They have no one to blame but themselves. The President does not meddle in the individual decision of administration lawmakers," said Libanan.

Opposition party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva of the Citizens Battle Against Corruption described the new impeachment case as a "litmus test" to determine the principles and source of conviction of each member of the opposition.

Lito Monico Lorenzana, chair of the Charter Change Advocacy Commission, called on Congress to give priority to moves to amend the Constitution and adopt the parliamentary system instead of impeachment.

"Charter reforms are needed to arrest the growing number of Filipino families going hungry, Lorenzana said."

"The parliamentary form and federal structure will enable us to replace plundering and power-tripping leaders," he added. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora*

PANGANIBAN: Independence

SC chief: We uphold civil . . .

From page A1

prosperity should be regarded as mutually inclusive.

"Liberty becomes the guarantee that, free from all interference and suppression, we all can conceive of the good life and act according to those conceptions. I venture the proposition that a society marked by such liberty is prosperous," he said.

Panganiban had also given speeches before the United Nations Development Program and the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce in New York. He is set to give lectures in Europe later.

Palace unfazed by German threat to suspend investments in RP

MALACAÑANG IS unfazed by the prospect of foregoing investments from Germany because of the long delay in compensating Fraport AG, the biggest foreign shareholder of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), for building the Ninoy Aquino International Air Terminal 3.

In a briefing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that while it was unfortunate that Germany would withhold infrastructure investments in the country pending the resolution of the Naia 3 compensation, "the country will just have to find ways and means to compensate for the foregone investments from somebody else." Germany funnels over $1 billion in annual investments into the country.

German Ambassador Axel Raimund Weishaupt bared his country's plan to freeze infrastructure investments in the Philippines in protest over the government's foot dragging in reaching an amicable settlement on the $450 million to $550 million being demanded by Fraport and Piatco which built the Naia 3.

The Supreme Court nullified Fraport and Piatco's Naia 3 contract and allowed the government to expropriate the facility subject to just and fair compensation. But Malacañang wants to have a third-party assessor to determine the just and fair compensation as it argued that a big chunk of the investments that Fraport and Piatco claimed to have spent on Naia 3 were used for bribes.

Teves said that he was not overly concerned about the German ambassador's threat because he was skeptical on how much sway Weishaupt holds on his countrymen's business decisions. "We are not sure the German ambassador can influence all German investors," Teves said.

For Teves, the key to keeping investments flowing into country was improving the economic and political factors. "If we strengthen our fundamentals that businessmen are looking into, we'd be able to generate more investments from other countries," Teves said.

PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS for HEAVY-DUTY CLEANING
High Pressure Washer & Vacuum Cleaners
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed By:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MANILA: 1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY: 646 Quezon Avenue
Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

FROM THE No. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
ELITE
1600 PSI / 3HP
1 Ph / 12 LPM
X-PRO
2200 PSI / 5.7HP
1 Ph / 12 LPM
WH 2111
2500 PSI / 5HP
1 Ph / 11 LPM
WH 3517E

TheraBreath Kit System
A sure cure to Bad Breath. Therabreath™ removes harmful bacteria that caused Bad Breath, gum disease, tooth decay and related problem of bitter/ sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.
GET A BABY'S BREATH WITH THERABREATH™
Free use of Halimeter for monitoring bad breath condition.
Money Back Guarantee. Will refund money if no good results within 7 days treatment.
Call free delivery w/in Metro Manila
890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2466 ; 895-6775
09177965859 ; 09202267717

An Invitation To A Travelling Retreat In
SCANDINAVIA
With COPENHAGEN, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, AND HELSINKI
12 Days
DEPARTURE DATE: July 18, 2006
Fr. CHOY RAMOS, S.S.S
Pilgrimage Chaplain
EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
THE CENTER for PILGRIMAGES since 1984
Lower Lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila
Call Amie, Merle or Amon • Tel. Nos. 523-8581, 521-4156
Fax: 526-0126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
Website: www.executiveresources.com.ph
DOT-144-2005
IATA PTAA

TUITION FEE LOAN
NOW AVAILABLE:
1 Day Release*
SEAMAN LOAN
ALLOTTEE LOAN
OFW LOAN
*Seaman/Allottee w/ ATM Card for Metro Mla. Branches
**Purpose of Loan as Placement Fee NOW ACCEPTED!!
GD
UNIT 3107, JOLLIBEE PLAZA CONDOMINIUM EMERALD AVENUE, ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY PHILIPPINES 1600
(+02) 631-1678 0920-9545773
(+02) 910-8215 0917-7005626
(+02) 910-8216
Topaz Bldg., Yakal St. Cor. Talisay St. San Antonio Village, Makati City
(+02) 892-5474 0917-8562257
Unit O-3, 4/F EDT Bldg., Session Road, Baguio City
(+074) 446-9229 0917-8554727
Unit P-2 Pierre & Paul Bldg., A. Mabini corner A. Flores St., Ermita Manila
(+02) 525 0380 0916 448 5421
(+02) 525 2077 0916 539 6544
Collateral and Non-Collateral Loans
• PUJ/TAXI • SEAMAN/OFW • TUITION FEE
• CAR LOAN • CAR IMPOUNDING • REAL ESTATE
• CORPORATE • MICRO BUSINESS • MOTORCYCLE
• BEAUTY • SALARY • 2ND HAND CAR FINANCING
• BUSINESS • DOCTORS
FLEXIBLE TERMS FAST & EASY PROCESSING AFFORDABLE RATES
EARN P50,000.00/Month or more! Be a LOAN AGENT ORIENTATION MON-FRI 1:30 PM

Short and Long Term
AIRCON RENTAL
AIRCON (up to 200 TONNER)
INDUSTRIAL FANS • WIRE • WATER PUMP • LIGHTS
www.airconrental.com custcare@airconrental.com
2840 Zamora St., Pasay City
phone: +63.2.5110277 • mobile: +63.917.5410400

David-Link "Your No.1 Choice in Office Automation Machines" KITANO
BUNDY CLOCKS • Two-color printing • Programmable Melody • Auto-Column Shifting
CHECK WRITERS • 14-Digit with calculator • 16 Currencies • Embossed printing
TIME-STAMPING MACHINE • Prints Company Initials • Up to 6 Digits Numbering • Adjustable Printing Position
BILL COUNTERS • Counterfeit Detector • Auto-Start/Stop • With External Display
LAMINATORS • Adjustable Temperature • Forward & Reverse Control • 4 Heavy Duty Rubber Rollers
WIRE & PLASTIC BINDERS • Up to 500 sheets binding capacity • Up to 25 sheets punching capacity • Up to 24 holes
PAPER SHREDDERS • Silent Operation • Heavy Duty • Auto-Reverse on Paper Jam
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE • 120 copies per minute • Electric & Manual Operation • Adjustable Printing Position
HEAVY DUTY PUNCHERS • Can punch up to 500 sheets • Selectable punching width
CALL NOW! 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327 8967764 • 8983431 • 8983432
E-mail: davidlink_mla@yahoo.com
Website: www.nlboworld.com.sg

join the growing community
NEW

Soon to dominate the skyline
MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER III
Cityland Square, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pio del Pilar Makati City
40-storey Office, Commercial & Residential Condominium
Own a unit for as low as ₱9,773/mo.
Amenities
Swimming Pool
Children's Playground
Function Room / Gym
Roof / Viewing / Jogging Deck
Sauna for men & women
24-hour Association Security
HLURB License to Sell #14617
812-2222 243-6565 818-8888 241-1894 | www.cityland.net Investment@cityland.net

WE THIRST FOR PEACE
(IN BULACAN)

Peace is our prayer, hope and commitment. Peace is when the government no longer allots an indecent percentage of the national budget to military spending but to education and other services to the people.. Peace is when communities are no longer harassed by military troops, taking their chickens and rice harvests. There can be no genuine peace when basic human rights are trampled upon and when the people live in a climate of constant fear and intimidation.

Statistics show an upsurge in the cases of human rights violation in the province of Bulacan since the deployment of the 24th Infantry Batallion to augment the forces of the 56th Infantry Batallion, and the assignment of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as the Commanding Officer of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in Central Luzon last September 2005.

Since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took office in 2001 and up to 2005, documented human rights violations in the province alone numbered at 36, of which 7 are cases of extrajudicial killings and 2 are enforced disappearances, not to mention the cases of physical harassment and mental torture affecting more that 1,300 workers, peasants, fisherfolks, urban poor and youths.

From January to March 2006 alone, 13 civilians were killed, excluding many civilian and barangay officials who are victims of enforced disappearance, physical and mental torture and house burnings perpetrated by armed bonnet wearing men that residents suspect as having links with the military and in some cases, victims identify the perpetrators as elements of the 56th IB and 24th IB of the Philippine Army.

The victims are deprived of their basic right to live guaranteed no less than by our faith and by existing laws, both national and international. Without any formal charges, they were arbitrarily arrested or forcibly taken and even killed in the allegation that they are NPA sympathizers or supporters. This is contrary to the constitutional principle of presumption of innocence. The perpetrators acted as the accusers, the judges and the executioners.

It is saddening however that the present administration is somewhat indifferent to these alarming cases of human rights violations in the whole country, including Bulacan where victims are civilians, suspected of being CPP-NPA sympathizers and activists identified with the progressive leftist groups. In a democracy like ours, rights of every citizen should be respected, regardless of religion, political beliefs etc.

In this context, we appeal to President Arroyo to immediately conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation of such human rights violations which have no place in a Christian nation such ours. These investigations should lead to the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators so that authorities may thwart the "climate of impunity" and could send a clear message to all members of the police, military and other security forces that involvement in, or acquiescence to such human rights violations will never be tolerated.

We also appeal to immediately pull out these military troops stationed in the province of Bulacan, for it is ironical that the rampant human rights violations occurred during the deployment of additional troops, particularly the 24th IB PA under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. How come that in the Tamayo Farms Massacre in San Ildefonso, where 5 civilians were killed and 2 were forcibly taken by 15 armed bonnet-wearing men, the farm is located just 100 meters away from a military checkpoint and 200 meters away from a military detachment?

As people of faith, we are called to be human rights advocates and peace builders. The peace that we should seek is the peace based on justice -where human dignity is upheld and no one is denied fullness of life.

"Ang Manlilikha ay ipinagkatiwala ang buhay ng tao sa kanyang mapanagutang pangangalaga, hindi upang gamitin ito ng walang pakundangan kundi upang alagaan ito ng may katarungan at tapat na pag-ibig." (pastoral letter of Bishop Oliveros)

Condensed from the statement "We Thirst for Peace (in Bulacan)" signed by concerned leaders and citizens of Bulacan. The signature drive to support this statement is still on-going.

Signatories : Most Rev. Jose F. Oliveros, D.D. -Bishop, Diocese of Malolos, **Rev. Dr. Solito K. Toquero**-Bishop, United Methodist Church-Manila Episcopal Area, **Rt. Rev. Raymundo Rivera**, Bishop- Iglesia Filipina Independiente-Diocese of Bulacan-Bataan, **Bishop Elmer Bolocon**-OIC Bishop, United Church of Christ in the Phils. North Luzon, **Most Rev. Joseph V. Galaroza, CSC D.D.**- Bishop, Igreja Catolica Apostolica Brasileira, **Diocese of Malolos:** Mons Andres Valera-Vicar General, Mons. Filemon Capiral, Mons. Epitacio Castro, Mons. Enrico Santos-Episcopal Vicars, Mons. Moises Andrade, Jr.-Chancellor, Fr. Pablo Legaspi-Vice Chancellor, Mons. Bart Santos, Jr-Rector, Commission Heads-Fr. Dennis Espejo-Service, Fr. Reynaldo San Juan-Liturgy, Fr. Albert Suatengco-Clergy,Fr. Mar DJ Arenas-Temporal Goods, Fr. Angelito Santiago-Youth, Vicar Foranes: Fr. Javer M. Joaquin, Fr. Ady Vergara, Fr. Leo de Jesus, Fr. Lon Balagtas, Fr. Rey Mutuc, Fr. Jovi Sebastian, Fr. Rolando de Leon, Fr. Bert Lunod,Fr. Rannie Trillana, Mons. Jaime Garcia, Mons. Manuel Villaroman, Mons. Enrique Mag-isa, Mons. Jose Antonio Galvez,Diocesan Priests-Fr. Isidro Rodriguez, Fr. Johann Sebastian,Fr. Mario Mendiola, Fr. Len Coronel, Fr. Ety Ignacio, Fr. Francis Cortez, Fr. Dars Cabral, Fr. Sonny Dazo, Fr. Bobby Mariano, Fr. Arnel Camacho,Fr. Conrad Santos, Fr . Mariano Lucas, Fr. Lazaro Benedicios, Fr. Jimmy Palaganas, Fr. Pros Tenorio, Fr. Jigo Garcia, Fr. Romy Sasi, Fr. Nicanor Lalog, Fr. Regino Asuncion, Fr. Ricardo Moraga, Fr. Nap Baltazar, Fr. Ronnie Tuazon, Fr. Anthony Chan, Fr. Ramil Jual, Fr. Romy Dionisio, Fr. Avel Sampana, Fr. Virgilio Ramos, Fr. Narciso Sampana, Fr. Rodel Ponce, Fr. Alejandro Enriquez, Fr. Ventura Galman, Fr. Vince Reyes, Fr. Romulo Perez, Fr. Expedito Caleon, Fr. Quirico Cruz, Fr. Von Tentangco, Fr. Fernando Placibe, Fr. Candido Ersando, Fr. Roman Caleon, Fr. Ramon Garcia, Fr. Marcelo Sanchez, Fr. Rufino Sulit, Fr. Teodorico Trinidad, Fr. Lamberto Tomas, Fr. Rodel Cristobal, Fr. Manuel Anastacio, Fr. Irineo Cabasal, Fr. Jay Lina, Fr. Coco Tibayan, Fr. Hilario San Juan-Sr. Nicota Vargas OSA-President, University of Regina Carmeli, Sr. Virginia Villaluz, OP-Superior General, **United Methodist Church:** District Superintendents-Rev. Ciriaco Francisco-North District, Rev. Ismael Sarangaya, Sr.-South District, Rev. Elias delos Santos-East District, Rev. Generoso Ocampo-Church and Society,Pastors,Deaconesses,Lay-Rev. Jaime Martin, Evalyn Fullido, Ruby Gunio, Nette Benedictos, Mirasol Ramos, Cleo Javier, Sheba dela Cruz, Francisco Sta. Ana, Roland Martinez, Marinel Laderas, John Santillan, Ruther Pillen, Raquel Palacio, Amy Manforte, Amie Ronda, Blesie Angeles, Lilia delos Santos, Aurea Mariano, Mec Estrella Villanueva, Rev. Arnel Villareal, Rewel Javier, May Cosicol, Elenor Sarangaya, Malou Mercado, Miriam Palacon, Ogie Mercado **Iglesia Filipina Independiente:** Fr. Santie Azaula-Vicar General, Fr. Nhel del Madrid, Jr.-Peacemakers Diocesan Priests-Fr. Jojit Sayas, Fr . Roderick Yñeco, Fr. Raymart Sacalamitao, Fr. Mario Quince, Fr. Nick Ventura, Fr. Paul Sacalamitao, Fr. Eric Miranda, Fr. Elmerick Azucena, Atty. Luisita Agbayani-Natl VP, WOPIC **United Church of Christ in the Phils**: Rev. Romeo Tomas, Rev. Alfredo Faurillo, Rev. Samuel Salen, Deac Herminia Salen, Ptr. Jerome Salen, **ICAB**: Fr. Roger Martinez, Jr.

Local Government Units

Representatives: Wilhelmino Sy Alvarado-First District, Pedro Pancho-Second District, Lorna Silverio-Third District, Reylina Nicolas-Fourth District, Eduardo Roquero, M.D.-SJDM, Roberto Pagdanganan, Cabinet Secretary **Board Members**: Raul Mendoza, Pat Laderas, Ernesto Sulit, Pacifico Aniag, Rod Santos, Glenn Santos, Jon-Jon Mendoza, Ike delos Santos, Daniel Fernando **Municipal Mayors: Ambrosio Cruz, Jr.**- President, League of Municipalities-Bulacan, Leonardo de Leon-Angat, Ma. Elizabeth Villegas-Bulacan, Felix Ople-Hagonoy, James de Jesus-Calumpit, Zoilito Santiago-Obando, Anastacia Vistan-Plaridel, Eduardo Alarilla-Meycauayan, Elpidio Castillo-Pulilan **Municipal Vice Mayors**: **Juan Magbitang**-President, Vice-Mayors League, Gilberto Santos-Angat, Rizaldy Samonte-Bulacan, Reynaldo San Pedro-SJDM, Vicente Esguerra-Pulilan, Conchita Beltran-Paombong, Nonilo Vergara-Balagtas, Juanito Santiago-Marilao, Jose Jose-Guiginto, Kennedy Valdez-Bocaue, Leo Yap-Plaridel, **Municipal Councilors:** Pulilan-Bernardino Santos, Marcelo Enriquez, Marcel Espinosa, Deejay Santos, Billy Ilaga, Manuelito Reyes, Guiginto-Ariel Arceo, Calumpit-Michael Fermin, San Ildefonso-Isagani Illescas, Leomar Garcia, Henry Castro, Plaridel-Lori B. Surio, Bocaue-Dennis Carpio **Heads of Provl Govt Offices:** Sienna Maureen Hilario-Chief of Staff,Office of the Governor, Alicia Javier-OSSC, Atty. Eugenio Resurreccion-Legal, Cynthia Abiol-HRMO, Rowena Tiongson-PSWD, Jesus Perez-Women's Center, Irineo Mendoza-Gen. Services, Marina Flores-Budget, Marites Friginal-Accounting, Ricardo Medina Jr.- PENRO, Jovito Saguinsin-PCEDO Provincial Govt. Staff : Medy Santiago, Lucila Dionido, Myla Reyes, Leonida Quintas, Mary Joy Tanguiran, Razchel Javier, Eugene Geronimo Jr., Diane Deinla, Carmencita Diaz, Gina Candelaria, Lucio Mariano, Hansel Evangelista, Alfredo Orbita, Marcelo Santiago, Larry Sebastian, Rizza Sanchez, Marites Barcibe, Jing de Guia, Josefina Buenaventura, Rosanna de Castro, Dindo Dionisio, Ernie Clemente, Renato Francisco, Arlene de Leon, Yolanda de Leon, Mary Rose Roque, Irene Crisostomo, Jefferson Lopez, Mel dela Cruz, Perlyn Mendiola, Ma. Rowena Maclid, Athenie Bautista, Ponciano Sillano Jr., Rosario Racquel Bunag, Jay Rodriguez, May Mendoza, Eric Tanjuan, Loreta Baltao, Ma. Ferlina Garcia, Norilyn Mendieta, Rochelle Mangulabnan, Marichiel Manimbu, Amalia Agcaoili, Ma. Gloria Carrillo, Norberto Arevalo, Rosario Benedictos, Cornelia de Jesus, Jesusa Mateo, Mariano Baltazar Municipal Staff:Engr. Arcadio Sulit, Kitchie Jose, Romeo Garcia, Danny Santos

Lawyers: Judge Manny Siayngco-President,LAKAN HUKOM, Atty. Purificacion Bernabe-Secretary, IBP-Bulacan, Atty. Sherry Jane Quinonez, Atty. Manny Arcilla-Directors, IBP, Atty. Liberato Reyes-Former Provl. Prosecutor, Atty. Emilio Bermas, Atty. Glen Palubon, Atty. Reneiro Payumo, Atty. John Vargas, Atty. Fermin Arceo **Concerned Individuals** : Magdalena Reyes, M.D.- Commissioner, PKKB, Ramon Posadas-Former Board Member, Jun Aniag-Former Representative, Elmer Maniego and Jake Maglalas-Commission on Human Rights-Region III.

ADVT

Palace unfazed by German threat to suspend investments in RP

MALACAÑANG IS unfazed by the prospect of foregoing investments from Germany because of the long delay in compensating Fraport AG, the biggest foreign shareholder of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), for building the Ninoy Aquino International Air Terminal 3.

In a briefing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said that while it was unfortunate that Germany would withhold infrastructure investments in the country pending the resolution of the Naia 3 compensation, "the country will just have to find ways and means to compensate for the foregone investments from somebody else." Germany funnels over $1 billion in annual investments into the country.

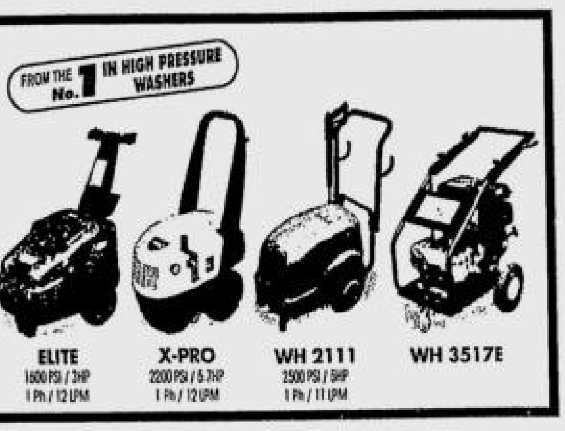
German Ambassador Axel Raimund Weishaupt bared his country's plan to freeze infrastructure investments in the Philippines in protest over the government's foot dragging in reaching an amicable settlement on the $450 million to $550 million being demanded by Fraport and Piatco which built the Naia 3.

The Supreme Court nullified Fraport and Piatco's Naia 3 contract and allowed the government to expropriate the facility subject to just and fair compensation. But Malacañang wants to have a third-party assessor to determine the just and fair compensation as it argued that a big chunk of the investments that Fraport and Piatco claimed to have spent on Naia 3 were used for bribes.

Teves said that he was not overly concerned about the German ambassador's threat because he was skeptical on how much sway Weishaupt holds on his countrymen's business decisions. "We are not sure the German ambassador can influence all German investors," Teves said.

For Teves, the key to keeping investments flowing into country was improving the economic and political factors. "If we strengthen our fundamentals that businessmen are looking into, we'd be able to generate more investments from other countries," Teves said.

PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS for HEAVY-DUTY CLEANING
High Pressure Washer & Vacuum Cleaners
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed By:
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MANILA: 1851 M.Orosa St., Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
QUEZON CITY: 646 Quezon Avenue
Tel. 7490581 • 7493709



TheraBreath Kit System
A sure cure to Bad Breath. Therabreath™ removes harmful bacteria that caused Bad Breath, gum disease, tooth decay and related problem of bitter/ sour tastes, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.
GET A BABY'S BREATH WITH THERABREATH™
Free use of Halimeter for monitoring bad breath condition.
Money Back Guarantee
Will refund money if no good results within 7 days treatment
Call free delivery w/in Metro Manila
890-8380 ; 895-5532
897-2406 ; 895-6775
09177965859 ; 09202267717

An Invitation To A Travelling Retreat In
SCANDINAVIA
With COPENHAGEN, OSLO, STOCKHOLM, AND HELSINKI
12 Days
DEPARTURE DATE: July 18, 2006
Fr. CHOY RAMOS, S.S.S
Pilgrimage Chaplain
EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
THE CENTER for PILGRIMAGES since 1984
Lower Lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo St., Malate, Manila
Call Amie, Merle or Amon • Tel. Nos. 523-8581, 521-4156
Fax: 526-0126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
Website: www.executiveresources.com.ph
DOT-144-2005
IATA PTAA

TUITION FEE LOAN
NOW AVAILABLE:
1 Day Release*
SEAMAN LOAN
ALLOTTEE LOAN
OFW LOAN
*Seaman/Allottee w/ ATM Card for Metro Mla. Branches
**Purpose of Loan as Placement Fee NOW ACCEPTED!!
GD
UNIT 3107, JOLLIBEE PLAZA CONDOMINIUM EMERALD AVENUE, ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY PHILIPPINES 1600
(+02) 631-1678 0920-9545773
(+02) 910-8215 0917-7005626
(+02) 910-8216
Topaz Bldg., Yakal St. Cor. Talisay St., San Antonio Village, Makati City
(+02) 892-5474 0917-8562257
Unit G-3, 4/F EDT Bldg., Session Road, Baguio City
(+074) 446-9229 0917-8554727
Unit P-2 Pierre & Paul Bldg., A. Mabini corner A. Flores St., Ermita Manila
(+02) 525 0360 0918 448 5421
(+02) 525 2077 0916 539 6544
Collateral and Non-Collateral Loans
• PUJ/TAXI • SEAMAN/OFW • TUITION FEE
• CAR LOAN • CAR IMPOUNDING • REAL ESTATE
• CORPORATE • MICRO BUSINESS • MOTORCYCLE
• BEAUTY • SALARY • 2ND HAND CAR FINANCING
• BUSINESS • DOCTORS
FLEXIBLE TERMS FAST & EASY PROCESSING AFFORDABLE RATES
EARN P50,000.00/Month or more! Be a LOAN AGENT ORIENTATION MON-FRI 1:30 PM

Short and Long Term
AIRCON RENTAL
AIRCON (up to 200 TONNER)
INDUSTRIAL FANS • WIRE • WATER PUMP • LIGHTS
www.airconrental.com custcare@airconrental.com
2840 Zamora St., Pasay City
phone: +63.2.5110277 • mobile: +63.917.5410400

David-Link "Your No.1 Choice in Office Automation Machines" KITANO
BUNDY CLOCKS • Two-color printing • Programmable Melody • Auto-Column Shifting
CHECK WRITERS • 14-Digit with calculator • 16 Currencies • Embossed printing
TIME-STAMPING MACHINE • Prints Company Initials • Up to 6 Digits Numbering • Adjustable Printing Position
BILL COUNTERS • Counterfeit Detector • Auto-Start/Stop • With External Display
LAMINATORS • Adjustable Temperature • Forward & Reverse Control • 4 Heavy Duty Rubber Rollers
WIRE & PLASTIC BINDERS • Up to 500 sheets binding capacity • Up to 25 sheets punching capacity • Up to 24 holes
PAPER SHREDDERS • Silent Operation • Heavy Duty • Auto-Reverse on Paper Jam
MIMEOGRAPHING MACHINE • 120 copies per minute • Electric & Manual Operation • Adjustable Printing Position
HEAVY DUTY PUNCHERS • Can punch up to 500 sheets • Selectable punching width
CALL NOW! 8905310 • 8905320 • 8905327 8967764 • 8983431 • 8983432
E-mail: davidlink_mla@yahoo.com Website: www.nlboworld.com.sg

join the growing community
NEW

Soon to dominate the skyline
MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER III
Cityland Square, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pio del Pilar Makati City
40-storey Office, Commercial & Residential Condominium
Own a unit for as low as ₱9,773 /mo.
Amenities
Swimming Pool
Children's Playground
Function Room / Gym
Roof / Viewing / Jogging Deck
Sauna for men & women
24-hour Association Security
HLURB License to Sell #14617
812-2222 243-6565 818-8888 241-1894
www.cityland.net
investment@cityland.net

WE THIRST FOR PEACE
(IN BULACAN)

Peace is our prayer, hope and commitment. Peace is when the government no longer allots an indecent percentage of the national budget to military spending but to education and other services to the people.. Peace is when communities are no longer harassed by military troops, taking their chickens and rice harvests. There can be no genuine peace when basic human rights are trampled upon and when the people live in a climate of constant fear and intimidation.

Statistics show an upsurge in the cases of human rights violation in the province of Bulacan since the deployment of the 24th Infantry Batallion to augment the forces of the 56th Infantry Batallion, and the assignment of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as the Commanding Officer of the 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in Central Luzon last September 2005.

Since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took office in 2001 and up to 2005, documented human rights violations in the province alone numbered at 36, of which 7 are cases of extrajudicial killings and 2 are enforced disappearances, not to mention the cases of physical harassment and mental torture affecting more that 1,300 workers, peasants, fisherfolks, urban poor and youths.

From January to March 2006 alone, 13 civilians were killed, excluding many civilian and barangay officials who are victims of enforced disappearance, physical and mental torture and house burnings perpetrated by armed bonnet wearing men that residents suspect as having links with the military and in some cases, victims identify the perpetrators as elements of the 56th IB and 24th IB of the Philippine Army.

The victims are deprived of their basic right to live guaranteed no less than by our faith and by existing laws, both national and international. Without any formal charges, they were arbitrarily arrested or forcibly taken and even killed in the allegation that they are NPA sympathizers or supporters. This is contrary to the constitutional principle of presumption of innocence. The perpetrators acted as the accusers, the judges and the executioners.

It is saddening however that the present administration is somewhat indifferent to these alarming cases of human rights violations in the whole country, including Bulacan where victims are civilians, suspected of being CPP-NPA sympathizers and activists identified with the progressive leftist groups. In a democracy like ours, rights of every citizen should be respected, regardless of religion, political beliefs etc.

In this context, we appeal to President Arroyo to immediately conduct a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation of such human rights violations which have no place in a Christian nation such ours. These investigations should lead to the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators so that authorities may thwart the "climate of impunity" and could send a clear message to all members of the police, military and other security forces that involvement in, or acquiescence to such human rights violations will never be tolerated.

We also appeal to immediately pull out these military troops stationed in the province of Bulacan, for it is ironical that the rampant human rights violations occurred during the deployment of additional troops, particularly the 24th IB PA under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan. How come that in the Tamayo Farms Massacre in San Ildefonso, where 5 civilians were killed and 2 were forcibly taken by 15 armed bonnet-wearing men, the farm is located just 100 meters away from a military checkpoint and 200 meters away from a military detachment?

As people of faith, we are called to be human rights advocates and peace builders. The peace that we should seek is the peace based on justice -where human dignity is upheld and no one is denied fullness of life.

"Ang Manlilikha ay ipinagkatiwala ang buhay ng tao sa kanyang mapanagutang pangangalaga, hindi upang gamitin ito ng walang pakundangan kundi upang alagaan ito ng may katarungan at tapat na pag-ibig." (pastoral letter of Bishop Oliveros)

Condensed from the statement "We Thirst for Peace (in Bulacan)" signed by concerned leaders and citizens of Bulacan. The signature drive to support this statement is still on-going.

Signatories : Most Rev. Jose F. Oliveros, D.D. -Bishop, Diocese of Malolos, **Rev. Dr. Solito K. Toquero**-Bishop, United Methodist Church-Manila Episcopal Area, **Rt. Rev. Raymundo Rivera**, Bishop- Iglesia Filipina Independiente-Diocese of Bulacan-Bataan, **Bishop Elmer Bolocon**-OIC Bishop, United Church of Christ in the Phils. North Luzon, **Most Rev. Joseph V. Galaroza, CSC D.D.**- Bishop, Igreja Catolica Apostolica Brasileira, **Diocese of Malolos:** Mons Andres Valera-Vicar General, Mons. Filemon Capiral, Mons. Epitacio Castro, Mons. Enrico Santos-Episcopal Vicars, Mons. Moises Andrade, Jr.-Chancellor, Fr. Pablo Legaspi-Vice Chancellor, Mons. Bart Santos, Jr-Rector, Commission Heads-Fr. Dennis Espejo-Service, Fr. Reynaldo San Juan-Liturgy, Fr. Albert Suatengco-Clergy,Fr. Mar DJ Arenas-Temporal Goods, Fr. Angelito Santiago-Youth, Vicar Foranes: Fr. Javer M. Joaquin, Fr. Ady Vergara, Fr. Leo de Jesus, Fr. Lon Balagtas, Fr. Rey Mutuc, Fr. Jovi Sebastian, Fr. Rolando de Leon, Fr. Bert Lunod,Fr. Rannie Trillana, Mons. Jaime Garcia, Mons. Manuel Villaroman, Mons. Enrique Mag-isa, Mons. Jose Antonio Galvez,Diocesan Priests-Fr. Isidro Rodriguez, Fr. Johann Sebastian,Fr. Mario Mendiola, Fr. Len Coronel, Fr. Ely Ignacio, Fr. Francis Cortez, Fr. Dars Cabral, Fr. Sonny Dazo, Fr. Bobby Mariano, Fr. Arnel Camacho,Fr. Conrad Santos, Fr . Mariano Lucas, Fr. Lazaro Benedictos, Fr. Jimmy Palaganas, Fr. Pros Tenorio, Fr. Jigo Garcia, Fr. Romy Sasi, Fr. Nicanor Lalog, Fr. Regino Asuncion, Fr. Ricardo Moraga, Fr. Nap Baltazar, Fr. Ronnie Tuazon, Fr. Anthony Chan, Fr. Ramil Juat, Fr. Romy Dionisio, Fr. Avel Sampana, Fr. Virgilio Ramos, Fr. Narciso Sampana, Fr. Rodel Ponce, Fr. Alejandro Enriquez, Fr. Ventura Galman, Fr. Vince Reyes, Fr. Romulo Perez, Fr. Expedito Caleon, Fr. Quirico Cruz, Fr. Von Tentangco, Fr. Fernando Placibe, Fr. Candido Ersando, Fr. Roman Caleon, Fr. Ramon Garcia, Fr. Marcelo Sanchez, Fr. Rufino Sulit, Fr. Teodorico Trinidad, Fr. Lamberto Tomas, Fr. Rodel Cristobal, Fr. Manuel Anastacio, Fr. Irineo Cabasal, Fr. Jay Lina, Fr. Coco Tibayan, Fr. Hilario San Juan-Sr. Niceta Vargas OSA-President, University of Regina Carmeli, Sr. Virginia Villaluz, OP-Superior General, **United Methodist Church:** District Superintendents-Rev. Ciriaco Francisco-North District, Rev. Ismael Sarangaya, Sr.-South District, Rev. Elias delos Santos-East District, Rev. Generoso Ocampo-Church and Society,Pastors,Deaconesses,Lay-Rev. Jaime Martin, Evalyn Fullido, Ruby Gunio, Nette Benedictos, Mirasol Ramos, Cleo Javier, Sheba dela Cruz, Francisco Sta. Ana, Roland Martinez, Marinel Laderas, John Santillan, Ruther Pilien, Raquel Palacio, Amy Manforte, Amie Ronda, Blesie Angeles, Lilia delos Santos, Aurea Mariano, Mec Estrella Villanueva, Rev. Arnel Villareal, Rewel Javier, May Cosicol, Elenor Sarangaya, Malou Mercado, Miriam Palacon, Ogie Mercado **Iglesia Filipina Independiente:** Fr. Santie Azaula-Vicar General, Fr. Nhel del Madrid, Jr.-Peacemakers Diocesan Priests-Fr. Jojit Sayas, Fr . Roderick Yñeco, Fr. Raymart Sacalamitao, Fr. Mario Quince, Fr. Nick Ventura, Fr. Paul Sacalamitao, Fr. Eric Miranda, Fr. Elmerick Azucena, Atty. Luisita Agbayani-Natl VP, WOPIC **United Church of Christ in the Phils:** Rev. Romeo Tomas, Rev. Alfredo Faurillo, Rev. Samuel Salen, Deac Herminia Salen, Ptr. Jerome Salen, **ICAB:** Fr. Roger Martinez, Jr.

Local Government Units

Representatives: Wilhelmino Sy Alvarado-First District, Pedro Pancho-Second District, Lorna Silverio-Third District, Reylina Nicolas-Fourth District, Eduardo Roquero, M.D.-SJDM, Roberto Pagdanganan, Cabinet Secretary **Board Members:** Raul Mendoza, Pat Laderas, Ernesto Sulit, Pacifico Aniag, Rod Santos, Glenn Santos, Jon-Jon Mendoza, Ike delos Santos, Daniel Fernando **Municipal Mayors: Ambrosio Cruz, Jr.**- President, League of Municipalities-Bulacan, Leonardo de Leon-Angat, Ma. Elizabeth Villegas-Bulacan, Felix Ople-Hagonoy, James de Jesus-Calumpit, Zoilito Santiago-Obando, Anastacia Vistan-Plaridel, Eduardo Alarilla-Meycauayan, Elpidio Castillo-Pulilan **Municipal Vice Mayors: Juan Magbitang-President**, Vice-Mayors League, Gilberto Santos-Angat, Rizaldy Samonte-Bulacan, Reynaldo San Pedro-SJDM, Vicente Esguerra-Pulilan, Conchita Beltran-Paombong, Nonilo Vergara-Balagtas, Juanito Santiago-Marilao, Jose Jose-Guiginto, Kennedy Valdez-Bocaue, Leo Yap-Plaridel, **Municipal Councilors:** Pulilan-Bernardino Santos, Marcelo Enriquez, Marcel Espinosa, Deejay Santos, Billy Ilaga, Manuelito Reyes, Guiginto-Ariel Arceo, Calumpit-Michael Fermin, San Ildefonso-Isagani Illescas, Leomar Garcia, Henry Castro, Plaridel-Lori B. Surio, Bocaue-Dennis Carpio **Heads of Provl Govt Offices:** Sienna Maureen Hilario-Chief of Staff,Office of the Governor, Alicia Javier-OSSC, Atty. Eugenio Resurreccion-Legal, Cynthia Abiol-HRMO, Rowena Tiongson-PSWD, Jesus Perez-Women's Center, Irineo Mendoza-Gen. Services, Marina Flores-Budget, Marites Friginal-Accounting, Ricardo Medina Jr.- PENRO, Jovito Saguinsin-PCEDO Provincial Govt. Staff : Medy Santiago, Lucila Dionido, Myla Reyes, Leonida Quintas, Mary Joy Tanguiran, Razchel Javier, Eugene Geronimo Jr., Diane Deinla, Carmencita Diaz, Gina Candelaria, Lucio Mariano, Hansel Evangelista, Alfredo Orbita, Marcelo Santiago, Larry Sebastian, Rizza Sanchez, Marites Barcibe, Jing de Guia, Josefina Buenaventura, Rosanna de Castro, Dindo Dionisio, Ernie Clemente, Renato Francisco, Arlene de Leon, Yolanda de Leon, Mary Rose Roque, Irene Crisostomo, Jefferson Lopez, Mel dela Cruz, Perlyn Mendiola, Ma. Rowena Maclid, Athenie Bautista, Ponciano Sillano Jr., Rosario Racquel Bunag, Jay Rodriguez, May Mendoza, Eric Tanjuan, Loreta Baltao, Ma. Ferlina Garcia, Norilyn Mendieta, Rochelle Mangulabnan, Marichiel Manimbu, Amalia Agcaoili, Ma. Gloria Carrillo, Norberto Arevalo, Rosario Benedictos, Cornelia de Jesus, Jesusa Mateo, Mariano Baltazar Municipal Staff:Engr. Arcadio Sulit, Kitchie Jose, Romeo Garcia, Danny Santos

Lawyers: Judge Manny Siayngco-President,LAKAN HUKOM, Atty. Purificacion Bernabe-Secretary, IBP-Bulacan, Atty. Sherry Jane Quinonez, Atty. Manny Arcilla-Directors, IBP, Atty. Liberato Reyes-Former Provl. Prosecutor, Atty. Emilio Bermas, Atty. Glen Palubon, Atty. Reneiro Payumo, Atty. John Vargas, Atty. Fermin Arceo **Concerned Individuals :** Magdalena Reyes, M.D.- Commissioner, PKKB, Ramon Posadas-Former Board Member, Jun Anlag-Former Representative, Elmer Maniego and Jake Maglalas-Commission on Human Rights-Region III,

ADVT

SC ousts justice from Imelda case

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORdered Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Gregory S. Ong to stop hearing the trial of former First Lady Imelda Marcos on ill-gotten wealth charges after Ong was reported to have said that he would dismiss the case because it was unwarranted and that he found chief witness former Solicitor General Frank Chavez "*mayabang* (arrogant)."

In the decision penned by Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna, the high court directed Ong to recuse himself from the case, saying the chair of the antigraft court's fourth division should be mindful "of the principle that judges should avoid impropriety in their conduct" at all times.

"In insulating the bench from unwarranted criticism, thus preserving a democratic way of life, it is essential that judges be above suspicion. It bears stressing that the duty of judges is not only to administer justice but also to conduct themselves in a manner that would avoid any suspicion of irregularity," the tribunal said.

The court ruled on the petition filed the Office of the Ombudsman asking that Ong be prevented from hearing the case after Ong told Special Prosecutor Wendell E. Sulit that he did not want to take the case.

"I do no want that case. I will dismiss that case. When I listened in to the case you were prosecuting, Chavez was saying nothing but hearsay," Sulit quoted Ong as telling him in his sala in February 2003.

KING JAMES
AUCTION CALENDAR
AUCTION TODAY
UNISOL INDUSTRIES AND MANUFACTURING CORP.
(To be sold on per building basis)
SITE : BO. MAKILING, CALAMBA, LAGUNA (NEAR YAZAKI-TORRES)
AUCTION DATE: MAY 18, 2006 (THU) @ 10:30 AM
SPINNING MILL BLDG., CIRCULAR KNITTING BLDG., FINISHING MILL BLDG., ENGINEERING AND PRODUCTION/ MANAGEMENT CENTER BLDG., PAPER CONE BLDG., ELEVATED WATER TANK AND PUMP HOUSE.
CONSISTING OF GI SHEETS, STEEL TRUSSES, I-BEAMS, STEEL GATES, ROLL-UPS, WOODEN TRUSSES, STEEL PIPES, ELEVATED WATER TANK 190,000 CAP., PRESSURE TANKS
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P20,000
ON-SITE AUCTION
SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR INDUSTRIAL
SITE : BRGY. BALUBARAN, MALINTA, VALENZUELA CITY, M.M.
(BESIDE SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR PARISH CHURCH)
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATE: MAY 18, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 19, 2006 (FRI) @ 10:30 AM
CONSISTING OF GENERATORS: CATERPILLAR 312KVA, CATERPILLAR 62.5KVA, CUMMINS 312KVA, AIRMAN 75KVA, DENYO 25KVA, TAIYO 1,070KVA; TOYOTA FORKLIFT, HD HOSE, BREAKER, PANEL BOARD BOX, LAUFFER CONTROL PANEL, AIR COMPRESSOR, WELDING MACHINES, HANMI FORM SYSTEM ICE MAKER, ENGINE TRAKTOR, GRINDER DISK, RECTIFIER, GARBAGE COMPACTOR, (2) BUS/ TRUCK ENGINE, BUS/TRUCK SPARE PARTS, RADIATOR, SIGNAL LIGHT ASSEMBLY, HEADLIGHT ASSEMBLY, BREAKLIGHT ASSEMBLY, PISTON RINGS, BOLTS, HARNESS, FUEL TANK, AIR TANK, DASHBOARDS AND MANY MORE...
REFUNDABLE / CONSUMABLE DEPOSIT OF P20,000
WE BUY FACTORIES, MANUFACTURING PLANT
FOR VIEWING SCHEDULE AND REGISTRATION CALL FOR INFO
721-3233, 723-3277, 299-8333
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.kingjamesauction.com

Bantay Kalikasan fined for La Mesa Ecopark

By Blanche S. Rivera and Philip C. Tubeza

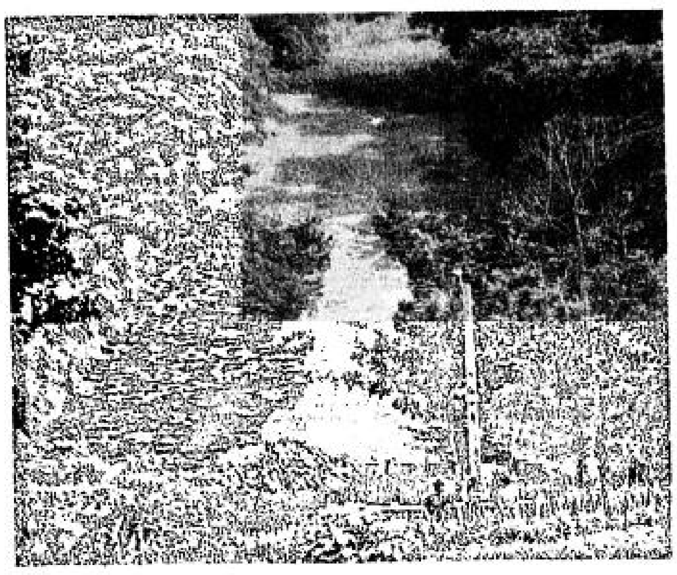
THE TABLES APPEAR TO HAVE been turned on Bantay Kalikasan as the government yesterday declared the environmental group had broken the law by operating the La Mesa Ecopark without an environmental compliance certificate.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) also fined Bantay Kalikasan P50,000 for violating PD 1586 establishing the environmental impact system and an additional P5,000 for each year of its transgression.

But even before the LLDA could serve Bantay Kalikasan the proper notice—scheduled to be carried out today—the environmental group claimed that the La Mesa Ecopark did not need an environmental clearance certificate because the resort and picnic grounds were not critical to Metro Manila's water supply.

"It's 70 to 80 meters below the dam reservoir so it's not environmentally critical. And what we did here is to rehabilitate an already existing park," said John Paul Balayon, Bantay Kalikasan operations manager.

Balayon agreed the park needed a "certificate of non-coverage" and said it would apply for it.



LA MESA Dam Ecopark JOAN BONDOC

The LLDA's call against Bantay Kalikasan is ironic, coming at the height of a campaign by the group to stop a housing project for employees of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) on grounds it would contaminate the reservoir on top of not having an environmental clearance.

Rep. Edcel Lagman, a supporter of the housing project who tried to fight off Kalikasan's moves, charged that the environmental group itself had no clearance to operate the park.

"Based on the investigation report of our Environmental Impact Assessment Unit, your La Mesa Ecopark (33 hectares within the La Mesa Watershed) has violated the ... laws ... for undertaking a development activity without first securing an environmental compliance certificate and LLDA clearance," Casimiro Ynares III, LLDA general manager, said in his notice to the environmental group.

The LLDA also issued a similar notice to the MWSS for its executive housing project.

The LLDA asked Bantay Kalikasan to apply for an ECC and LLDA clearance within 30 days. The MWSS, which was fined P5,000 per year of violation, was also required to secure an LLDA clearance.

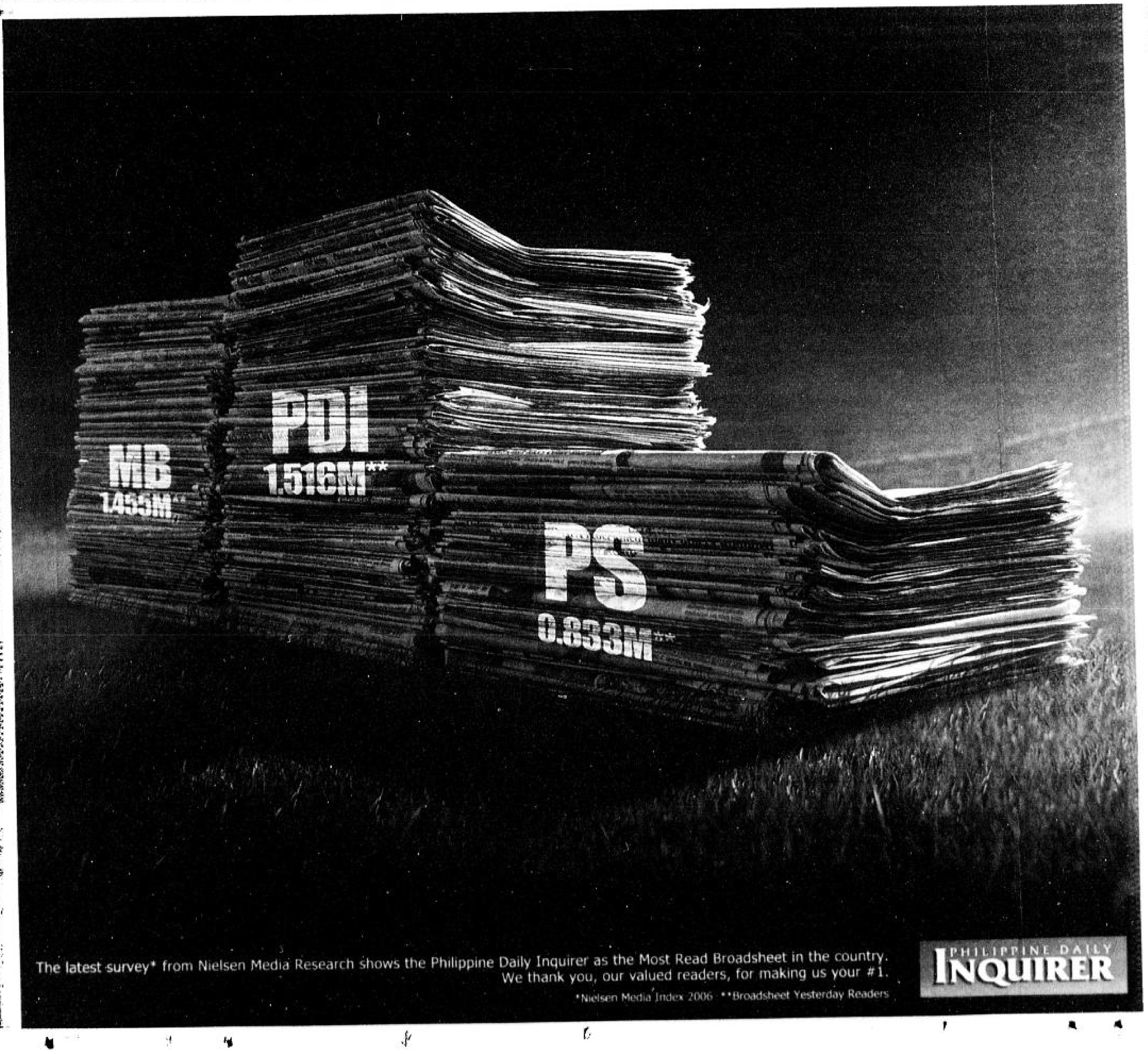
Former Department of Environment and Natural Resources chief Elisea Gozun, who ABS-CBN Foundation chair Gina Lopez claims had told the group that an ECC was "not required," denied exempting the La Mesa Ecopark from obtaining the necessary environmental permits. Bantay Kalikasan is part of the ABS-CBN Foundation.

"I really do not recall having said that ... You know that all development projects require an ECC. I would never have said anything contrary to our own regulations," Gozun told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"What I would have done had I known there had been an application (for an ECC) was to facilitate the issuance," Gozun said.

Bantay Kalikasan leads the "Save La Mesa Coalition" opposed to the housing project for 1,411 employees of the MWSS for fear domestic wastes would contaminate the reservoir, the main source of drinking water for Metro Manila's 12 million residents.

PABX 6,000 ONLY
LEASE TO OWN UNIT
3 Lines / 8 Locals up to 128 locals
HI-TECHOLOGY OF PABX P6000 DOWNPAYMENT
- Built-in Intercom
- Call Pick-up/Call Transfer
- Teleconference Call
- Music on Hold
- Caller ID
- Voice Mail
- IDD/NDD Restriction
- Day/Night Service
- Power Fail Transfer
- Call Forwarding
- Auto Attendant
- VOIP
Special Promo for Small Offices P2,500 Only
FREE DEMO
We offer CCTV & Internet-phone
EVER 0916-517-8408
715-8114/411-2100



The latest survey* from Nielsen Media Research shows the Philippine Daily Inquirer as the Most Read Broadsheet in the country.
We thank you, our valued readers, for making us your #1.
*Nielsen Media Index 2006 **Broadsheet Yesterday Readers

Tax raps vs Juday upheld; arraignment set today

By Cynthia D. Balana

JUDY ANN SANTOS

MOVIE ACTRESS JUDY ANN Santos, popularly known as "Juday," will be arraigned today by the Court of Tax Appeals after the Department of Justice upheld the findings of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) that she had incurred income tax deficiency of P2.714 million in 2002 "to the prejudice of the government."

The arraignment was set by the CTA after Santos' "Motion to Reconsider the Denial of her Motion to Quash the Information" was rejected by the latter for lack of merit, the BIR said.

In her motion for reconsideration, Santos claimed that she was grossly denied right to due process; that the information failed to allege the elements constituting the offense charged; and that the prosecuting attorney has no authority to file the case.

The DOJ said it found no merit for a reinvestigation of the case after a preliminary investigation found a reasonable ground to believe that tax evasion had been committed by the actress when she failed to declare her combined income from the ABS-CBN television network, Viva Productions and Star Cinema.

According to the DOJ resolution dated Oct. 1, 2005, Santos had "willfully, unlawfully and feloniously" filed a false and fraudulent tax return for 2002 by indicating therein a gross income of P8.033 million when her correct income was P16.396 million, or a difference of P8.362 million.

The CTA assumed jurisdiction of the case since the amount involved was more than P1 million in tax deficiency. A bail of P20,000 was recommended for Santos' temporary liberty.

Aside from a string of movies to her credit, Santos has done several product endorsements for 555 Sardines, Leonardo Bags, Angel Evaporated Milk, Fitrum, Piltel, AMA Computer Learning Center, Pacific Blue Shades, and San Miguel Beer, among others.

She was also the lead star of Krystala, a 30-minute fantasy series aired by ABS-CBN during the first quarter of 2005.

Jail officials told to identify youth offenders

By Norman Bordadora

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO PUNO has asked the country's jail officials to coordinate with the Public Attorney's Office to identify the juveniles still languishing in adult jails instead of being rehabilitated in youth homes.

Under Republic Act 9344 or the Juvenile Justice System Act, which was signed into law by the President last April 28, children in conflict with the law shall undergo diversion programs like counseling, capacity building, training and socio-civic work under the DSWD's supervision instead of being detained in jail.

Puno said many juvenile inmates or children in conflict with the law in the provincial prisons have yet to be transferred to the rehabilitation centers run by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

"I have instructed officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology to help speed up the release of juvenile offenders who have remained in prison because of pending court orders," Puno said.

"The BJMP should coordinate with PAO to find out what legal obstacles need to be hurdled to facilitate the quick release of these juveniles still languishing in adult jails," he added.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, May 18, 2006
5th Week of Easter
John I

1st Reading: Acts 15:7-21
Gospel: John 15:9-11

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; remain in my love. You will remain in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you all this, that my own joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

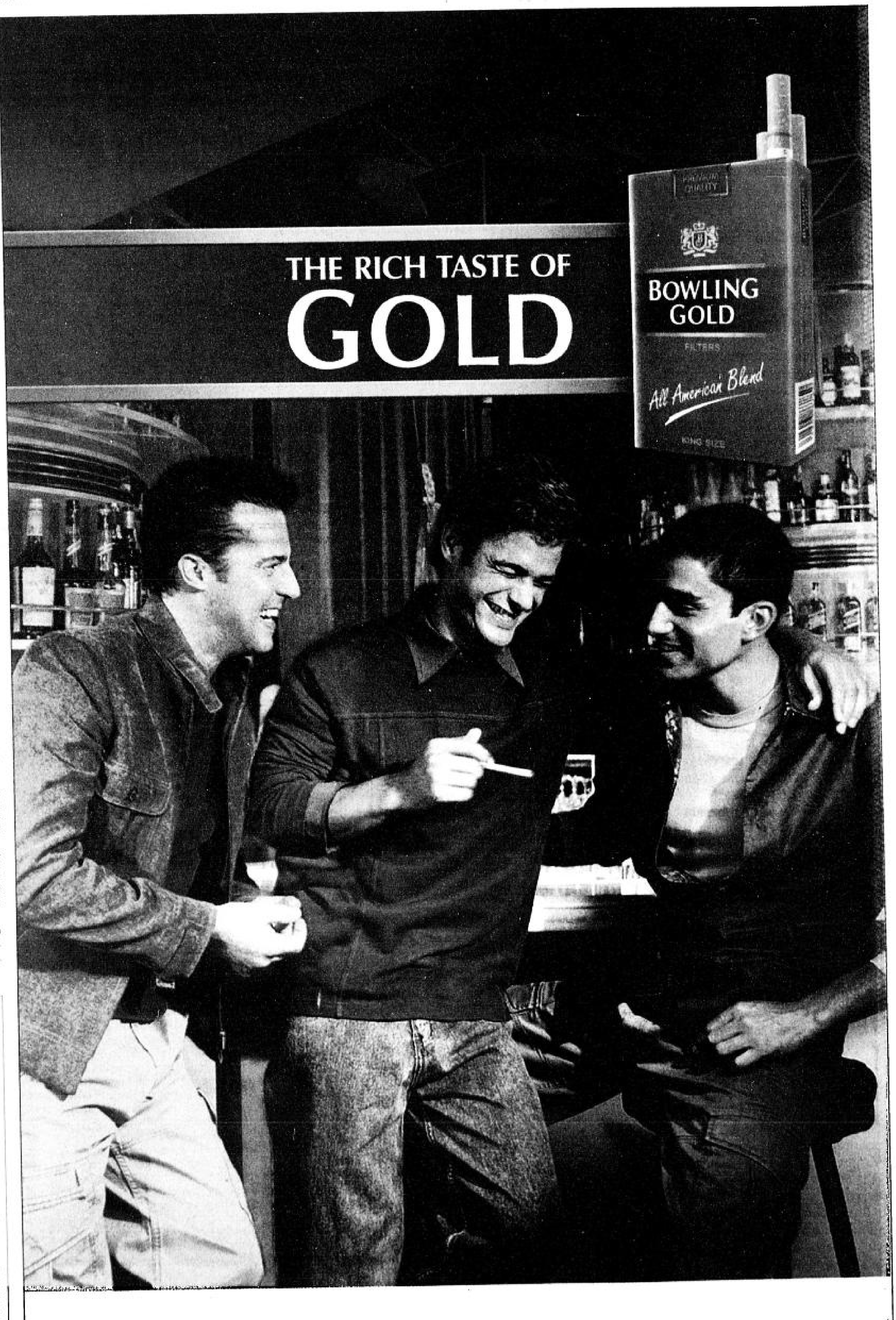
Commentary

Peter stands and announces that the Spirit makes no distinction, purifying the Gentiles' hearts by means of faith, much the same as their own hearts. They should not have an added burden laid on them, a yoke that is unnecessary. Paul and Barnabas speak, and then James the elder of the Jerusalem Church. He concurs and asks only that the Gentiles refrain from what is impure. It is decided. And Jesus is clear that there is only one commandment that all the others must serve to highlight: love one another as I have loved you; and you will know the joy of God.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

idac®
AIRCONDITION
The New Split Type Aircon
Wall-Mounted
1hp-P16,500
1.5hp-P18,500, 2hp-P25,000, 2.5hp-P30,000
Floor Mounted
3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000
Free Installation!
Call:2432610,2414731
Available@MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas
Cebu-(032)3465498 Davao-(082)2358821

www.sountex.com
Helping those who can't hear well hear better...
Mrs. Alice Tan
Grandmother
Hearing loss is not something you need to just "live with". We have the solution that can help you hear better.
At Sountex, the hearing test is prompt, precise and painless. If you are unable to come in for a test, we can arrange for you to take it in the comfort of your own home. For the center nearest you, call us today and we'll be happy to schedule a "no obligation" FREE HEARING TEST.
867-1916
RECOGNIZED BY THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY
Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals
Hearing Solutions from Siemens



Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 21 No. 159

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000
•100% soy ink•

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Sandy Simon R. Yap**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Madame Miriam

EDITORIAL

MANY JOURNEY INTO THE DESERT TO GAIN self-control or grow in wisdom. Jesus famously spent 40 days in the desert to be tested by the devil. Unfortunately for our democratic experiment, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago joined President Macapagal-Arroyo on her state visit to Saudi Arabia and emerged from the desert as, well, a fortune-teller, a la Madame Auring.

We do not know whether this is a sign that she was shown the kingdoms of the world and liked what she saw, or whether she is simply learning to turn the stone of political reality into the bread of political opportunity. Perhaps she is still working out her response to the second of Jesus' three temptations in the desert. Jump from the temple top, and wait for the angels to catch you. Maybe she could not wait, and decided to feather the ground, so to speak, to cushion her fall.

"I don't want to forfeit by default my duty to help write the new Constitution," Santiago said last week, rather unexpectedly, by way of explaining her readiness to vote together with the House majority to convene a constituent assembly. This came as a surprise, because until last week we did not realize she thought she was elected in 2004 to write a new Constitution in 2006.

But this much we know: When she returned to the country over the weekend, the feisty senator suddenly predicted the demise of the Senate—not next year, not by 2010, but in two months' time, by July. (It would have been even more stunning if she had decided to put more distance between the living and the dead, and resigned, but we suppose there are limits even to fortune-telling.)

Naturally, her pronouncement got the attention of the media, which is of course part of the point. Unlike the country's many fortune-tellers, however, the lawyer-senator had a lawyerly caveat: "Between May 15 when the present session resumes, and July 24 when a new regular session begins, the Supreme Court will have enough time to hear and decide a test case on the House resolution to convene as a constituent assembly," she said. If—a big if, it turns out, even in her own estimation—the high court rules that the two chambers of Congress can in fact vote jointly when they are convened as a constituent assembly, then the Senate will be history by July. If not, then, well, she was merely belaboring the obvious.

Surely even Santiago, who famously used to eat death threats for breakfast, can see that the basis for her prediction is too thin, without sustenance. But this has not stopped her from issuing more statements.

This week, she made a rather unusually public attempt at number-crunching. The abolition of the Senate and the adoption of a unicameral parliamentary system, she said, would save the country some P5 billion in the next five years.

Her arithmetic is suspect, not only because it (again) is conditional but also because her approach to math is all too political.

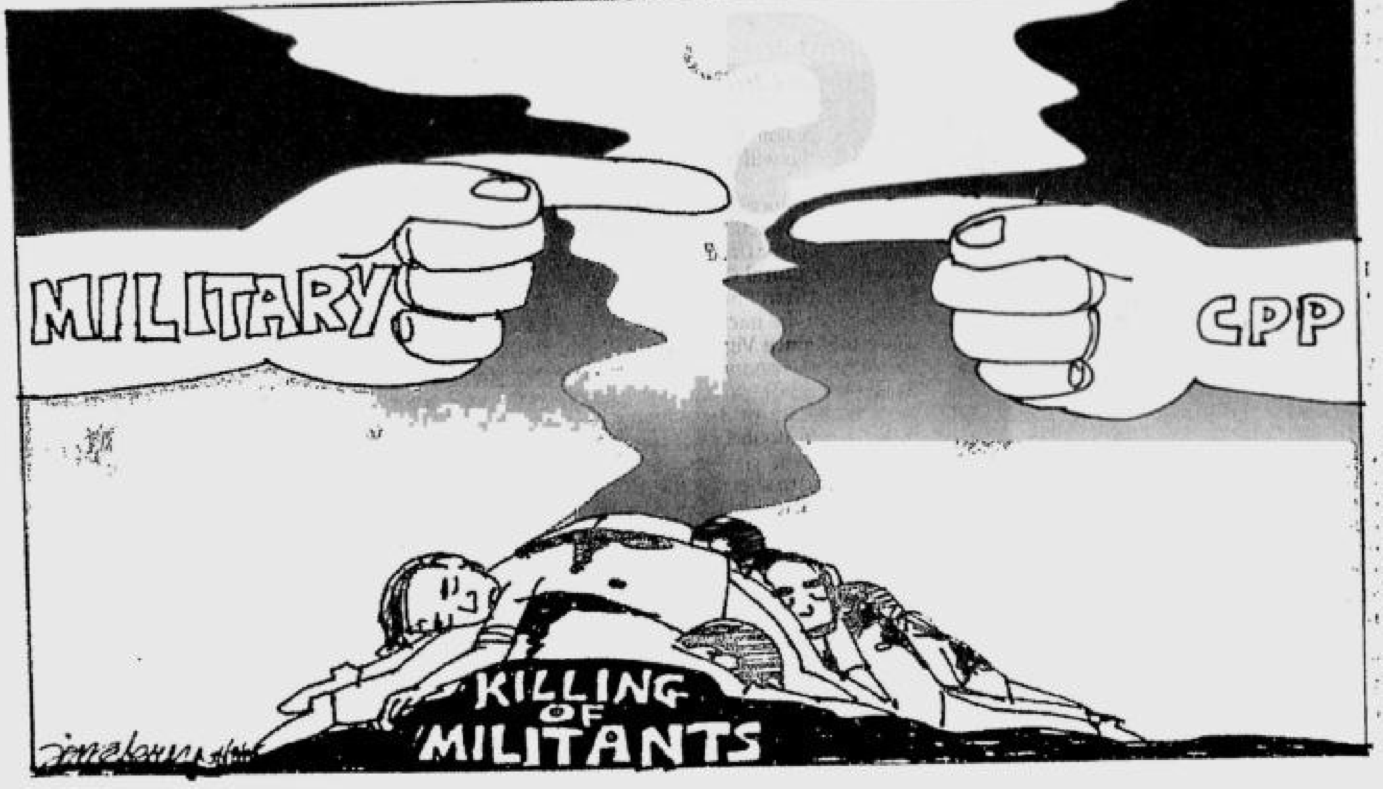
It doesn't bother her if the Senate were abolished, she said, because after all her colleagues were not elected fair and square. "If Senate elections do not truly reflect the people's will, let us abolish the Senate and move up in our political evolution," she said.

Apparently, the crystal ball she dug out of the desert not only allows her to read the future; it allows her to divine the past.

She made an astonishing claim: Survey tail-enders somehow ended up topping the Senate race. "That can only be explained either by money or by magic. So how can certain senators adopt a moral stance with respect to President Macapagal-Arroyo's election?" she asked. Because she ended up in the (for her) unfamiliar place of seventh (in other words, right in the undistinguished middle), we suppose that she has no quarrel with the results.

We wonder what she would have thought of the abolition of the Senate if she had topped the last elections. Perhaps she wouldn't have gone to the deserts of Arabia in the first place.

But the issue is Santiago as fortune-teller. Aside from the shock value she provided, there really isn't much to recommend her in her new role. We suggest she keep her day job.



Whipping boy and tutorials

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

THERE'VE BEEN REACTIONS FROM ABROAD to issues that rock this country. Here are some of the more pointed comments:

From Sheikh Jarrah, in Jerusalem, Israel, Ma. Teresa Alang writes: "Your INQUIRER column 'Bogus prophecy,' carried by INQ7.net, strips the façade covering the swindle mislabeled as 'Charter change.' But it overlooks one point: Our politicians make a basically sound Constitution into a whipping boy to escape lashing.

"The President to the lowliest congressman dump on the Charter all problems, from lack of investments to legislative gridlock. No one refers to their avarice and corruption. Congress, for example, hasn't passed a law to ban dynasties, much less one to authorize a 'people's initiative.' And I'm not even talking about fertilizer scams, pork barrel, etc.

"A people's initiative or constituent assembly will not result in change. It means more of the same oppression by the same oppressors. The Constitution has not failed us. We have failed the Constitution, starting with the President."

Dr. Manolo Abella led the United Nations office on migration until his recent retirement. From Vancouver in Canada, he writes:

"Dr. Tessa Tan Torres, a Filipino professional working with WHO, called my attention to your column, 'Crutches anyone?' on overseas foreign workers' remittances. I'm glad these questions are being raised, suggesting to government that we need more than just to rely on these inflows.

"While many observers (especially sociologists) lament conspicuous consumption by remittance-receiving households, the fact is that people act rationally. Note that remittances rise when times are hard—motivated by altruism, unlike speculative capital which is very nervous.

"World Bank studies show that migrant households do not have a consumption behavior any different from non-migrant households with the same income. Like you and me, they'll invest their hard-earned money in something sure: children's education, better housing, better food, etc.

"They will not risk it in small projects that are likely to collapse. Small enterprises have a notoriously high turnover rate everywhere in the world. What alternatives are there for a recipient of small remittances?

"Our NGOs are excited about small projects. I don't hold much hope in these projects. Investing in another transport vehicle, like a jeepney, or another grocery may do some good for the migrant's family. But it will be at the expense of another jeepney or grocery owner who loses his or her share of a small market.

"It will only be when we have a better developed capital market that one can hope for mobilizing remittances for financing development. Our financial institutions still have to come up with ways of developing secondary markets for mortgages and the like.

"Our local governments can, perhaps, make it happen faster if they issue high-interest bonds to obtain financing for infrastructure development.

"Because they are stable, remittances offer an opportunity to reduce the cost of borrowing (through securitization) in the international market for finance. A one-percent reduction in the cost of our borrowing can amount to hundreds of millions in debt servicing costs."

From the United States, Glenn Taylor writes:

"Thanks for your column, 'Tales of two cities.' Two main points, in particular, struck home:

"(a) The need 'to mount sustained policies and programs to make cities engines for economic growth and at the same time keep them livable,' and (b) 'Foremost is the leadership value of the local government officials,' Asian Institute of Management says. Next is 'a strong support system, offered by business alliances and responsive civil society.'

"My wife and I are currently engaging in a partnership with the local government of her hometown, Barotac Viejo, Iloilo. The mayor, Raul Tupas, and the council are supportive…

"Our partnership with the LGU concerns development of new infrastructure and lifestyle facilities for the community; specifically an integrated transport terminal, wet/dry markets and attractive shopping centers and surroundings.

"We hope these will reduce pollution, traffic congestion, provide jobs, more efficient farm-to-market distribution for producers, be a source of community public services, including an open and maintained park and riverside walkway."

From Bangkok, retired ship captain Ariston Roxas and his wife Justin read the column, "Kingly power," on the Thai monarch. They sent back a rollicking article: "All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Philippine Politics." The author was not given. But here are some "tutorial" points:

"1. Voting is a right here but getting counted is a privilege.

"2. When children of deposed leaders like Imee Marcos or Jinggoy Estrada insist that current Palace occupants are thieves and crooks, believe them. They've been there.

"3. If a journalist writes something deemed offensive, they call it libel. When a lawmaker says something defamatory they call it privilege speech.

"4. In UP, they are referred to as 'hard-line activists'; In Mendiola, they are 'hardcore militants.' In Congress, they're party-list representatives. Simply put, there are no communists here.

"5. The State of the Nation Address is when the country's most prominent and influential liars come together to listen to the country's biggest liar.

"6. The pork barrel per se is not evil or corrupt. Lawmakers are."

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

'Kataksilan'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER THAT IT WAS POPOY LAGMAN and not Satur Ocampo who did not particularly want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to succeed Erap during Edsa II. Lagman's position was "Resign All," a slogan its marchers shouted in Mendiola and painted on walls, a call for both Erap and Gloria to resign to pave the way for new elections. Lagman's argument was that the entire Erap administration, to which GMA belonged and had acquiesced by silence, if not by active cooperation, had betrayed the public trust. It should be abolished in full. He called for Hilario Davide to head a caretaker government and preside over snap elections.

It was Bayan Muna that thought otherwise, agreeing to GMA becoming president for many reasons. Not the least of it was that after playing it safe for a while, GMA had finally come out and plotted with them (they have proof of it, and frankly I cannot understand why they do not belabor the point) as well indeed as with the military to oust Erap. She was an ally.

Ocampo's side won over Lagman's in the Left camp, the "Resign All" position being promptly shoved aside. Well, Bayan Muna might have won the battle, but it has lost the war.

"Kataksilan" (treachery) is the word government has used in a documentary purporting to show a Left-Right conspiracy against GMA, which presumably justified—and should justify in future—emergency rule. That is all very well, except for one thing. Who has betrayed whom?

Over the past year, no other group in this country has been persecuted with murderous zeal by government than Bayan Muna. The "murderous" is by no stretch of the imagination metaphorical. Last Saturday night, gunmen shot and killed Manuel Nardo in a karaoke bar in Pampanga, bringing to an eye-popping 93 the number of Bayan Muna members killed since GMA took power, and to 123 the number of leftists killed over the same period. Almost unbelievably, Nardo was the fourth leftist to die by a bullet in five days, turning the murders into a near-daily thing.

And despite the fact that the Supreme Court has junked PP 1017, releasing the "Batasan 5" from their congressional prison, Raul Gonzalez continues to dangle a legal sword over their heads. As things stand now though, that is probably the least of their worries. The first is the real sword dangling over their heads, as shown by the mounting body count of Bayan Muna members.

You can't have a graver case of treachery than that. But the treachery goes beyond Bayan Muna to the nation itself.

The reason for singling out Bayan Muna for persecution is easy to see. It is the "weakest link" in terms of public acceptance among those opposing GMA. It can be persecuted with near-impunity, the public being expected (not entirely wrongly) to not lift a finger to stop it in the belief (completely wrongly) the mayhem can happen only to "them" and not to "us." That was what the Nazis did in the 1930s: trot out a scapegoat in the Jews and Bolsheviks whom they lumped together as one. The Jews were presumably behind Bolshevism, a batty idea now but which the Nazis sold completely earnestly, and especially ferociously, at the time. It's a classic template for tyranny.

The case against the Batasan 5 alone is a monumental case of selective retribution. At the very least, what makes it so is that GMA is the last person to have a right to rail against Left-Right conspirators. She was one.

At the very most, what makes it so is that the government has no lack of people to arrest and jail in the attempted "withdrawal of support" last February. There's more prima-facie evidence against them. The "withdrawal of support" was never a secret. It openly and loudly advertised itself, appealing to the public for support. But the government cannot go after its leaders because it stands to prove only that their "coup" would have been the most popular coup in the world, having the blessings of most Filipinos. There are not enough jails in this country to hold those who want GMA out and are actively plotting to make it so.

But it's the killings that are truly terrifying. This isn't just routine murder, this is wholesale slaughter. More than journalists, it's the leftists that are being butchered like chickens, to quote a phrase used by one of them. And less than journalists, nobody is lifting a voice to protest it, or a finger to stop it. If there is anything more terrifying than those killings, it is the silence of the nation in the face of it.

Doubtless, they themselves are partly to blame for that lack of sympathy from the public. You murder your own comrades and gleefully toast it before the public, that public isn't going to send its lamentations to heaven, or to the world, when you yourself are murdered. But this is a case that goes beyond liking the victims or taking sides. This is a case where the victim is the nation itself.

What we're seeing today is not just the murder of leftists, it is the murder of human rights, the very thing we fought bitterly to retake from Marcos. As we saw then, the right to assemble, to freely express ourselves, indeed to continue to exist on this earth, is not a luxury, like tea, it is a necessity, like breath. What we're seeing today is not just the murder of activists, it is the murder of democracy, its chilling message being addressed not just to the activists but to anyone who would oppose a creeping dictatorship: "This is the fate that awaits you." What we're seeing today is not just the murder of Bayan Muna members, it is the murder of all that is decent and good in this country. Look at Nazi Germany and see what happens to a people who agree to the killing of other people in the thought that it has nothing to do with them.

Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for you. Ask not who lies in the red-draped coffin, you do.

Cultural interaction from around the globe

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

YESTERDAY DRAMATISTS FROM THE CENTRE for Training and Research in Live Performing Arts of Burkina Fasso arrived in Muñoz City, Nueva Ecija, Luzon's science center, to start a three-day cultural interaction with folks from that region. The visiting dramatists will conduct a workshop on classical and indigenous African drama and acting methodology for the local faculty and students. In turn, the townspeople will treat them to a cultural fare that includes interpretative dances by students of the Central Luzon State University around the theme of planting and harvesting of rice, and the Bungkos Palay Dance Troupe of Mayor Nestor Alvarez. The visitors may even do some rice planting in the rain.

* * *

Burkina Fasso is a small French-speaking country of 10 million in West Africa. But in the next two days its drama people will be treated by Muñoz officials, led by Mayor Alvarez and townsfolk, to traditional Filipino hospitality and an array of native talents.

They are part of the 150 top university faculty and students from 12 drama institutions around the world participating in the World Festival of Drama Schools. The festival is a major event of the 32nd Unesco-International Theater Institute (ITI) World Congress, which is being held in Asia for the first time in ITI's 58 years. The Philippines won the bid to host this biennial world cultural Olympics in the last congress in Tampico, Mexico, two years ago.

* * *

The festival borrowed from the successful SEA Games here. Instead of being confined to Metro Manila, the cultural events are being distributed around the country in order to maximize exposure of the host cities and the guests to each other. The idea of a "Theater for All" along the theme of cultural diversity and art as a tool for social development was conceptualized by Unesco education chair Dr. Corneliu Dumitriou, ITI Philippines president Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and festival director Nick Lizaso. The 11 participating RP cities were chosen for the strong presence of educational institutions and cultural traditions in their regions. Lizaso said an average of seven schools are participating per region. It's easy to see what a great cultural boon this will be for our faculty and students.

* * *

Yesterday Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson sent his private plane to fly dramatists from the National School for Dramatic Arts of Lima, Peru, to Vigan for cultural interaction, with the University of Northern Philippines in the lead. He assured them the natives won't need Spanish interpreters since Vigan has preserved a generous share of Hispanic culture. Another city with a rich Hispanic past, Zamboanga, is hosting the theater faculty of Veracruzana University in Mexico, and doubtless the natives will put to good use their *chabacano*, a pidgin Spanish that's bound to shock and awe the visitors.

Baguio, with its dense concentration of schools, will host the National School of Drama of India, while Santiago City in Isabela, under Mayor Amelita Navarro, will interact with the drama department of South Africa's University of Cape Town. Twelve Isabela schools, led by La Sallette University, will participate, but observers are expected from all over Cagayan Valley.

* * *

Legazpi City interacts with the Shanghai Theater Academy of China. Students of Bicol University will show off the legends of Mayon in dance and drama, but observers are expected also from Camarines and Sorsogon. Cagayan de Oro City, seat of Xavier University, will receive Rumania's National University of Drama and Film, named after I.L. Caragiale, a famous actor. Participants are expected from as far as Iligan City and Bukidnon, and Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno has prepared a fireworks show.

Iloilo City hosts the Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theater, Cinema and Television of the Ukraine, with the University of San Agustin in the lead, while Puerto Princesa City interacts with the theater department of Singapore's Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Mayor Edward Hagedorn personally picked Singapore doubtless because of its clean and green image, just like his city. Davao City, seat of Ateneo de Davao, asked to host the faculty of Dramatic and Music Arts of Teheran University, perhaps due to its large Muslim population, but observers are expected from as far as General Santos City and Davao Oriental.

* * *

Philippine tourism should get a big boost from this event. Last night, all 11 regions were simultaneously linked up with their respective visitors' countries by webcast, as they commenced the cultural performances. Moreover, each foreign delegation will be filming its experiences and all of these films will be compiled at the Unesco headquarters in Paris for worldwide dissemination. The delegates' treasure trove of RP memories will include a visit to a Unesco World Heritage Site in their region. For instance, the South Africa drama group will be taken from Isabela to Banaue to see the world-famous Ifugao Rice Terraces, while the Ukranian group will visit Miag-Ao Church in Iloilo. The Singapore group will visit the Underground River in Palawan while the Chinese will get to enjoy the world's most perfect cone.

One of the highlights of the congress will be the interaction in Bohol today between the heavenly voices of the Loboc Choir and Mexico's famed Chimalli Choir. The latter was formed by Mexico's Meced Program, which takes care of Mexican children "in especially difficult circumstances." Its members are carefully selected from auditions held in 15 municipalities. From Loboc, the two choirs will be brought to Manila to sing at the dinner to be tendered by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the delegates on May 22, and the opening of the Leaders' Forum, led by Unesco executive director Koichiro Matsuura, on May 23.

Culion: The nuns' story (1)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THIS MONTH AND YEAR, CULION ISLAND IN Palawan marks its 100th anniversary as a place where lepers of yore were shipped and confined for most of their lives. Culion, once the biggest leper colony in the world, is a leper colony no more. It is now a thriving island municipality. The new generation no longer bears the marks of the dreaded disease that medical science has finally licked. The scars are still there, no doubt, but the place and its people have long begun the journey toward healing.

I was one of those who helped write the handsome coffee-table book, "Culion Island: A Leper Colony's 100-Year Journey Toward Healing." The experience was rewarding indeed. Here are excerpts from "The Nuns' Story," one of the pieces that I wrote.

* * *

The sea was calm when the four French Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres (SPC) boarded the ship that would take them from Manila to their mission assignment: Culion Island. With prayers on their lips and faith in their hearts, they bravely sailed forth, "to consecrate ourselves for the care of the poor lepers."

Founded in Levesville-la-Chenard in France in 1696 "to instruct the ignorant and assist the afflicted," the sisters were to become "gleaners," to look after the last, the least. The first Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres arrived in the Philippines in 1904. Two years later, four of them would embark on a mission among the outcasts.

The SPC nuns were responding to the call of the Apostolic Delegate, Monsignor Ambrose Agius, OSB. They would be the first Catholic nuns to sail in that direction. For some time, they would be the only nurses working there.

Sister Sidonie Bureau, the superior, Sister Marie de Bon Pasteur Lintot, Sister Calixte Christen and Sister Therese de Jesus sailed for that remote island at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of May 22, 1906. Several hours later, the sea turned rough and stayed that way until the ship reached its destination. But the journey was not without its light and hilarious moments. For the nuns, the experience at sea was a foretaste of the difficult but fulfilling Church mission in Culion that would continue throughout the century.

The nuns arrived in Culion toward the evening of May 25, 1906, two days ahead of their wards. Dr. Carlos de May, director of the Colony (1903-1907), welcomed them with a lantern in his hand, lighting the path to their "new" dwelling where bats felt at home. Several times, in that semi-darkness, the nuns stumbled on the steep and narrow path.

"We viewed with great interest the panorama that unfolded before us," one of the nuns later wrote in French. "No matter where we looked, we saw chains of mountains. Opposite us, the mountain slope was strewn with houses in the middle of clumps of trees. This was Balala where employees of the Bureau of Health would settle. In the part of the island extending to our left, there were more houses stretching out from the top of the mountain to its base. Only six were constructed with boards whitened with lime. All others were made of nipa (palm fronds). At the far end, on a sort of headland going to the sea, there stood the church with its old ramparts which made it look like a castle. Near it shone the lighthouse."

The view was great, but in the beginning there was little food—and so much work to do. As one pioneering nun exclaimed: "We felt like true missionaries since we lacked food!"

The sisters met the first boatload of lepers that arrived on May 27, 1906. The second batch arrived two months later on July 4. The first year was hard as there was only one doctor whose administrative duties left him little time for the patients. The sisters had to fill in the gap, doing even amputations and minor dental work. They spoke mostly French and a little English and had no knowledge of the local languages.

Other problems were lack of personnel, medical facilities and supplies and the constant threat of beri-beri. Nature was not always at its best. The sisters experienced a strong typhoon in 1910 and a landslide in 1916.

But something graver concerned the sisters. The forced separation of the patients from their families and life as virtual exiles brought extreme loneliness. The marriage ban at that time and the loose separation of the sexes posed a problem. There was a rise in illegitimate births.

The nuns formed the Children of Mary and worked for suitable housing for the women. Still, strict separation gave rise to restiveness among the patients. The sisters had to bear the situation until the marriage ban was lifted in 1910.

Marriages gave birth to new problems. What to do with the offspring of leprous parents who could not care for them? And when the Culion authorities wanted to send the children declared clean to Manila, their parents protested.

In 1916, the authorities decided to build a nursery in Culion for children born to leprous parents. The SPC nuns would run the nursery to which the babies were brought right after birth. "We wrapped the babies with only their faces showing for their mothers to see," recalled a nun.

Even the nuns had to exercise strict hygiene. Those who worked with the patients had to step on a disinfecting solution and change clothes before entering the nursery.

The parents could view their children through glass panels in the nursery. There was no physical contact. Sometimes an attendant would provide a small gift for a child, hang it on a stick that would breach the divide. It was heartbreaking. More so when toddlers, not used to seeing patients, suddenly saw, through the glass, the deformed faces of their parents. Many would cower in fear and say, *"Kakatakot."*(Fearsome).

(To be continued)

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The tar baby

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

WHAT WAS ORCHESTRATED ALONG THE lines of Lenei Reifenstahl's propaganda masterpiece "Triumph of the Will" (her film of the 1934 Nuremberg rally of the Nazis) has turned into a scene straight out of Walt Disney's "Song of the South," in particular, the fable of Brer Rabbit and the Tar Baby, in which a fox gets the goat of a rootin' tootin' but rather vain rabbit by setting up a baby made of tar along the side of the road. The rabbit, spotting the tar baby, tries to strike up a conversation, and gets frustrated over the tar baby's silence. The rabbit tries to beat up the tar baby, but with every kick and punch, he gets more and more stuck until the fox comes out and taunts the rabbit. The lesson, of course, is that you shouldn't mess with something you have no business with in the first place.

Charter change, as originally scripted, was supposed to result in the intimidating yet seductive spectacle of a population rising up to reclaim democracy. It was going to be breathtaking and unstoppable. It was like putting a Japanese bullet train on Philippine National Railways tracks. Pull the train whistle all you like, make all the speeches in the world, bring out the brass bands, publish all the glossy timetables you desire, and still, the result is what we have: cash and saliva don't a popular initiative make; popularity does. And it simply wasn't—and isn't—popular enough. The Sigaw ng Bayan bullet train was all about shouting and found itself stuck in time-tested tracks. Now it is being subjected to what real-world PNR trains regularly endure: an assault from the public.

From the start, everyone from the stationmaster down to the locomotive driver and conductor were told it simply wouldn't work: the Constitution is like our narrow-gauge railroad tracks and putting a shiny bullet train there was an exercise in futility. Perhaps the President hoped, and some of her people promised, that the train would magnetically, or even magically, levitate over the tracks, perhaps they read "The Little Engine That Could" once too often, but reality has a harsh way of intruding into zany schemes and the people's initiative has proven exactly that: too zany to work.

Now, like some folksy Uncle Remus (the character in "Song of the South" who tells the Brer Rabbit fables) sitting in the caboose watching all the fuss, some of the President's allies decided to tell the story of the tar baby and convinced the powers-that-be that Charter change through a people's initiative is an unwinnable fight. You don't need a bullet train, the old PNR engine will do. Rev it up enough, and it will smash its way through anything in its path. And while perhaps the Lambinos and Bengzons of the present have invested too much, emotionally or otherwise, in the vain hope of making their bullet train fly, they can be left trying while the pros try something else. It's like a variation on a math problem: If engine A leaves station 1, traveling to point B at 20 kph, and engine B leaves station 2, traveling to point be at 10 kph, which engine will arrive at point B first? The correct, political answer is: It doesn't matter. The government owns both engines, so whichever one gets there first can be proclaimed a win-win triumph of transportation. The Strong Republic railroad.

Just the other day, a foreign journalist interviewing me for a series on the political situation remarked, in between takes, "You know, I've been trying to get hold of a government spokesman but no one is replying."

I told him that perhaps the government was still formulating its message. He said that was quite possible.

The new message is being broadcast loud and clear: It's the Dagupan Express all the way! The Charter change express has shifted engines, that's all. And it's good to consider, at this point, what some versions of the tar baby fable have as their ending. Having been taunted by the fox, Brer Rabbit recovers his wits, begs the fox to throw him into a briar patch, and the sadistic fox complies, not realizing the rabbit can handle the thorny leaves and he can't chase him through the briars. Brer Rabbit gets thrown into the briar patch and has the last laugh.

So who is Brer Rabbit, who is Brer Fox, and who is the tar baby? It depends on whom you ask. I happen to think Brer Rabbit is the President, Brer Fox is the Speaker, and the tar baby is the public and its hostility to the so-called people's initiative. Then again, our Loony Tunes political situation means the big players, at various points in time, play the role of the rabbit and the fox—at times all fight and bluff, at other times, engaging in crafty cunning and plotting. And every one of them, at whichever time they want to play the fox, can create as many tar babies as they please. And each time they decide to be the rabbit, they expect to outwit the fox. And as for you and me—well, sometimes one has to be thankful for the tar babies.

Whether we're watching the Brer rabbits or foxes and their tar baby games, you have to wonder how that will affect your reality. Looking at that shiny, noisy but useless "people's initiative" sitting dead in its tracks, makes you wonder how much of our taxes went to what is a spectacularly failed experiment. And watching the happy face of the Speaker as he wets his whistle, you have to wonder, too: Will that Dagupan Express remove the stones and dirt, the cracked and uneatable grains, from NFA rice at P15 to P20 a kilo? What's cheap shouldn't necessarily be of inferior quality. And at P5.50 to P6.50 a pack, instant noodles are more affordable and cleaner than what the government can provide.

And that's the true moral of the tale: a constitution doesn't provide edible rice. People do. But if they're wrestling tar babies, well…

Permanent disability

YOUNG BLOOD

Leo Rey F. Almero

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY MOTHER IS SOFT-SPOKEN, BUT SHE STANDS HER ground on issues that most people shy away from. Just recently, our barangay captain asked her to sign up for the campaign launched by the supporters of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Realizing that it was the signature campaign, which the Arroyo administration unashamedly calls the people's initiative, my mother declined, saying she was against it.

This morning, while we were enjoying the cool morning breeze, my aunt's house help, Ate Mile, mentioned that my cousin had asked her to sign a piece of paper. My cousin, a barangay official, told her it was the minutes of the recent barangay assembly. Ate Mile signed a yellow piece of paper and another white sheet.

My mother, who is the barangay treasurer, told her the yellow paper was indeed the minutes of the barangay assembly, but the other one was for the signature campaign. When told that it called for Charter change and the possible extension of GMA's term, Ate Mile protested in our native tongue: "I did not know that! I wasn't told it was for that purpose. We will be going backward, if she does not step down."

That's people's initiative for you. Whatever the Arroyo administration officials say, the only ones they manage to convince are themselves. But that is not surprising. For two years now, the squatter in Malacañang has been convincing herself that she is the legitimate President.

I guess it is not difficult for her to convince herself that she is indeed the President. After all, the candidate I voted for is dead and the duly elected president is also dead. She has Garcillano, Gonzalez and Defensor to defend her, and they are such brilliant, logical and truthful people!

When I wrote in my blog what I thought about the current political situation, my dentist wrote back to ask why I was so angry with GMA. She was surprised because I had taken part in Edsa II.

I replied that I was not fighting for GMA then, but I was there, like many others, to protest against President Joseph Estrada's conduct. I never questioned GMA's constitutional right to succeed to the presidency; I had to respect what the Constitution mandated, even though I never liked her. Now, what I am questioning is her legitimacy, and her behavior and that of Jose Pidal and Jose Pidal Jr.

And she has the temerity to push for the revision of the Constitution!

She started by creating a commission, which was not even permitted by the Constitution. Moreover, on the day we were supposed to attend the assembly sponsored by the commission, I received a call from a classmate who told me that attendance was by invitation. We had to represent a sector of the community to be admitted to the convention center in the capitol where the assembly was being held. Well, that's consultation for you.

Now here comes Speaker Jose de Venecia announcing that by July this year, we would already have a parliamentary government. No surprise there. Even before I was qualified to vote, I already knew that the Speaker had dreams that were bigger than Dumbo's. They are such big dreams that even a Comelec official was surprised by them. The official pointed out that it would take some time to verify the signatures, and the Comelec would need almost P3 billion to do it and then conduct a plebiscite.

Someone ought to tell our people that the money they paid for the expanded value-added tax will be used to satisfy the whims of those who want to change the Constitution in order to fulfill their dreams of: (1) having a graceful exit; (2) extending their stay in power; (3) at last, becoming the head of the government; or (4) all of the above.

But I am not really worried, for several reasons. The first is that the Senate, or at least the more sensible members of that chamber, will not let GMA and the House of Representatives bully them into changing the Constitution. The senators are more knowledgeable about the Constitution, while most congressmen seem to be uninformed or misinformed (or pretending to be either, which is idiotic) about the provisions of the Constitution.

The second reason is that the Supreme Court, the vanguard of the Constitution, is still there. And I pray that it will continue to perform its noble task of defending the Constitution. I have faith in the Supreme Court even though most of its members have been appointed by GMA. And that faith has been strengthened by their decisions on Executive Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017.

But my best reason for believing Charter change will not happen soon is that the people are very well aware of the current political situation. The surveys show that a big percentage of Filipinos do not only want GMA to resign but also want the Constitution to stay as it is. In fact, a classmate told me that his boss, an elected government official and a known GMA supporter, is against the revision of the Constitution. Of course, I cannot verify that, but if it's true, *kudos* to him.

As to some Filipinos living abroad who say that GMA is the best person to lead the country, I would believe it only if they said that after living here for a few months. The Filipino is intelligent, and there is no doubt about that. Only the administration says that Filipinos are more concerned about what they have on their tables. Such demeaning utterances could come only from officials who do not value the people's opinion.

Only administration officials say that the people still want GMA to lead the country, that she was put there by God, that she is the best person to lead the country and that the only solution to all the problems of the country is the revision of the Constitution. But these statements are little more than the incoherent babbling of persons who are prone to self-deception, like someone who continues to believe in the legitimacy of her presidency.

Does that constitute permanent disability? And that is one legitimate ground for removing her from office.

Leo Rey F. Almero, 23, graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2003 and is now taking up law at the the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga City.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Working abroad should be one of the many available options

THIS IS IN SUPPORT OF INQUIRer's position and recommendation regarding the plight of our overseas Filipino workers. ("A politician's gift," PDI, 5/12/06)

Indeed, it is the duty of the government to provide protection for its migrant workers and to negotiate pro-migrant agreements with OFW-host countries like Saudi Arabia. This is imperative to prevent the oppression and maltreatment of our modern-day heroes.

As the Arroyo administration pushes Filipino workers to go abroad so that they can feed their families and bring stability to our economy, it should pursue as well a parallel mechanism to protect them.

Unfortunately, after more than three decades of state-promoted migration, the Philippine government's performance in forging pro-migrant bilateral labor agreements with labor-receiving countries remains poor; until now, it has a zero batting average. Worse, its negotiating power is limited to lowering the minimum standards of protection and benefits of migrant workers in order to make the hiring of Filipino workers more attractive to labor-receiving countries.

This is not to mention the inability of the government to fully address the many problems besetting our OFWs, such as rape, maltreatment, contract violations, rampant illegal recruitment, trafficking and the social costs of migration.

The release of several hundreds jailed OFWs in Saudi Arabia may be a cause for celebration, but at the same time it should prompt our legislators and law enforcers to rethink our policy on migration and to work for an economy that can provide gainful and sustainable local jobs to our millions of unemployed Filipino workers.

Working abroad should be just one of the options; it should not be the only option for our intelligent and industrious people.

—MARIA HELEN T. DABU,
program coordinator,
Resource and Advocacy Program,
Kanlungan Centre Foundation
Inc. (Centre for Migrant Workers),
77 K-10th Street,
Kamias, Quezon City

Appearances do not make or unmake a crime

TO PARAPHRASE C.S. LEWIS, nowadays, crime is not committed in dark, seedy alleys by suspicious-looking gangsters but in well-lighted offices by neat-looking men in crisp shirts with clean fingernails. This is what makes evil all the more alluring—and harder to detect.

In real life, an obvious distinction of what good and bad really look like doesn't exist. This is the lesson we get, looking at the clean-shaven and—let's say it—good-looking soldiers in the Subic rape case.

Rape, however, does not choose appearances—the victim's or the rapist's. The victim will not always look like an alluring princess caught in a high tower, and the devil will not always have dirty hair, sinister eyes and horns to match. Rape is not a crime of lust or passion. It is first and foremost a crime of aggression and it chooses no one—whether beautiful, desirable or not. Rape is about domination. The thrill one gets out of it is the kick of establishing power.

Just because a rapist has a "tame appearance," is "gentle and soft-spoken," celebrates birthdays, and/or has a family—as the news story "Fr. Reuter presents the 'other side' of the accused" (PDI, 4/29/06) shows—does not mean he is incapable of misdeeds or heinous crimes.

But as one lawyer of the case said: "The public should know that even though they look like tame puppies, they raped and abused a Filipina, treated her like a pig and threw her on the road. That is what they did. Let's not be fooled by looks."

We should remember that it's the victim who is on the losing end. In fact, in rape cases, we should believe the woman precisely because it takes a lot of guts for her to even come out to a skeptical world and proclaim what has been done to her.

An 80-year-old American priest of high stature "liking" these soldiers should not divert public focus against what these men really did, or are accused of doing. What happens in this country, as in all patriarchal societies, however, is that it is the woman who is made to prove her "innocence" and "purity." It is as if she is the one tried and at fault. Her character, her habits, her work are scrutinized: "She is a prostitute, she wanted it, why did she even drink with them?" Her accusers, on the other hand, are presented as clean and meek lambs. Now, that is the imbalance. Now, that is using media for propaganda.

These American soldiers are using Fr. James Reuter's reputation so that we can turn a blind eye to what they have been accused of doing. Our first responsibility is to give justice to the Filipina woman who also has a human face, a loving family, a birthday and a name.

—CAI MARIANO,
danicar.mariano@gmail.com

Marriage of convenience between dynasties and oligarchs

THIS IS A REACTION TO Manuel L. Quezon III's column "What's in it for you." (PDI, 5/4/06) Are we harping on the wrong side of the issues here? The Philippine political system is nothing but a marriage of convenience between the political dynasties and the Filipino oligarchs. Nothing more.

The year MLQ III was born, the Filipinos were standing in long queues to buy gas and rice, and I did a stint inside Fort Bonifacio pulling *talahib* grass for violating the curfew. I was out late that night working for an P8-a-day job. Since then, I haven't seen yet any great advances or changes in our political system that I can admire. Have there been any changes at all in our political system aside from the removal of the "dysfunctional" and their replacement with "incompetents"?

We're in a quagmire. (1) Unless the upper crust of the Filipino society and the Filipino taipans cut the umbilical cord connecting them to political cronyism, and then sincerely join Juan de la Cruz's fight against poverty, the same political situation will prevail in our country." (2) Unless the Filipinos renounce and turn away from institutionalized corruption, our country's political system will not change.

It is not politics which is corrupt. It is the citizens who corrupt it. Where are we headed to?

—CHRIS GALON,
kayana2@netzero.net

LETTERS

'Spoon wars'

I AM A CANADIAN WORKING in the Philippines. I have been here for a while now and I still have a while to go. I have been reading the INQUIRER every day since my arrival and have been keeping abreast on this so-called "issue" of "The Spoon Wars."

The statement of the Montreal teacher was in every way "out of line." I cannot imagine the ramifications that it has had on her school and that of the Canadian schooling system. Acts of racism are not permitted in Canada in any form or from anyone. This probably would not have happened if the teacher had known that the use of spoon is a culturally distinct Filipino practice.

Most Canadians are neither white nor big-nosed snobs, contrary to what the May 14 Talk of the Town cartoon suggested. And as far as actual eating habits go, I must say that we Canadians eat in a variety of ways—with forks and knives, or even with our bare hands when it comes to certain types of food.

I have found during my stay in the Philippines that the eating habits of the Filipino people are far more polite than the average Canadian. So although I deeply disagree with the teacher in Montreal, I think that the issue has been blown out of proportion in the media, to the prejudice of Philippine-Canadian cultural relations.

We all need to understand a few issues here so that we may put this issue to rest and continue to enjoy the warm Philippine-Canadian relations that our two countries have established. We all are human beings. Each one of us is important. But we all make mistakes. And when we do, the best thing we can do is apologize.

We should treat this isolated incident and use it as an opportunity to highlight the positive differences between our two cultures.

The INQUIRER's Talk of the Town should have focused on the more pressing concerns of the Filipinos. There are a lot more important things it can talk about on its pages than a spoon.

—DAWN STAFRACE,
dawnstafrace@yahoo.com

Injustice at National Dairy Authority

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED NATIONal Dairy Authority (NDA)-VISAYAS employees, deplore the unjust dismissal of Administrator Salvacion M. Bulatao—"SMB" to all of us at the NDA—from office. It should be emphasized that she was fired for ignoring bidding procedures twice, not for stealing public money.

The first transaction had to do with a consultancy engagement in September 2001. It was necessary to make four milk processing plants more efficient. The plants had been in the hands of dairy cooperatives for around 12 years without any rental being paid to government. Since there was no Filipino dairy engineer or technician in the country at that time, she and her colleagues in the NDA central office saw that hiring a Thai consultant who was in the country would save money for the government. The staff of NDA Operations and Finance and Administration endorsed the transaction. The Commission on Audit subsequently cleared the transaction.

Barely a month in the organization then, SMB had to trust the system and go for results with the greatest impact on the industry, the dairy enterprises and on the NDA as a government-owned and controlled corporation. Today, all those plants are covered with lease-purchase contracts, the NDA is collecting rent and the enterprises are operating the plants at a profit.

The second transaction had to do with a contract with McCann-Erickson. As a result of the engagement—facilitated by no less than the author of the National Dairy Development Act of 1995, then Sen. Leticia R. Shahani—the local dairy industry had its first set of professionally crafted promotion materials (including a TV commercial with Ogie Alcasid who appeared pro-bono and the Original Pilipino Milk logo that has been adopted as the quality symbol of local milk producers).

Today, although the dairy sector is small, it is regarded as one of the achievers in the Department of Agriculture. SMB has been a dedicated, effective and honest technocrat. Records show that, with her at the helm of the NDA, the agency consistently grew.

As Marcus Buckingham says, the only things that leaders have in common is that they break all the rules. John Maxwell adds, "Great leaders don't just buy into what everybody else is saying, and they don't follow the beaten (and in the case of government processes, often obsolete) path. Great leaders are constantly creating their own conditions for success by blazing new trails." This SMB has done.

We truly believe in SMB's integrity as a government servant and as an effective leader, and we hope that the powers-that-be review SMB's case and do right by her. We likewise suggest that a review be made on existing government procurement processes and rules, many of which in fact are not effective in preventing corruption. Further, some rules or processes are no longer relevant and actually slow down a nation aching for faster development.

—GRACE J. CENAS
AND 18 OTHER
NATIONAL DAIRY
AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES

PPI is a solvent company

I WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY Alcuin Papa's report "Distressed pre-need firm would sell plans." (PDI, 5/10/06)

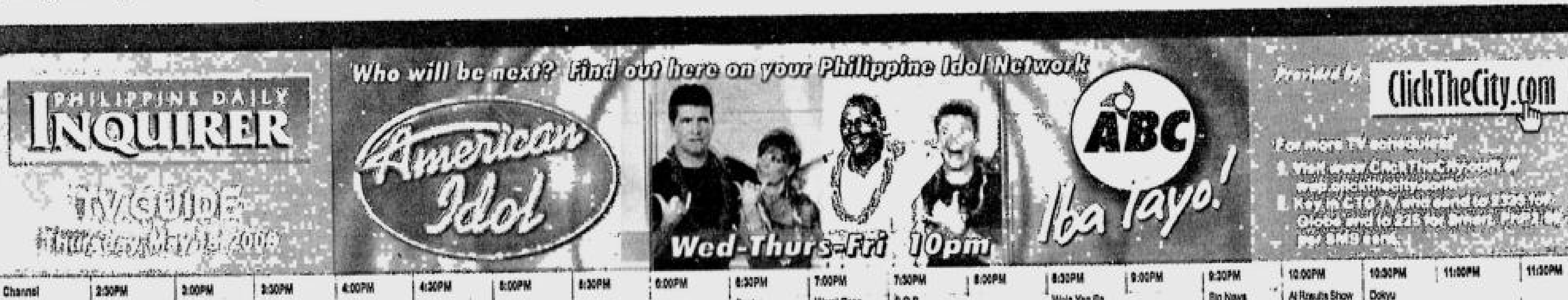
Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) has stopped selling open-ended educational plans way back in 1992 or 10 years before the Securities and Exchange Commission banned pre-need companies from doing so. I think what was not stated in the report was that PPI would only sell fixed-value educational plans, alongside with its other products such as fixed-value memorial and fixed-value pension plans.

The trust funds of these plans, which amount to P9.38 billion, exceed its total actuarial reserve liabilities of P8.95 billion. And the fact that the court has ordered an immediate approval of their (dealers) license and the SEC is poised to do so (PDI, 12/12/05) means only one thing: PPI is a solvent company and is, therefore, capable of paying planholder benefits.

I, too, enrolled my three children in PPI educational plans. But these are fixed-value plans. As a planholder, I believe that the company exists to serve Filipinos here and abroad and, if it is allowed to sell these plans, I am confident that the company can deliver on their future obligations.

Banning PPI from selling fixed-value plans would compromise the servicing of more than 400,000 fixed-value planholders as against the 32,000 open-ended planholders.

—OLIVER M. TANGARA,
Purok 2, San Miguel,
Tibungco, Davao City,
develop_witholiver@yahoo.com



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, May 18, 2006

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	Volleyball League				Sentro	Worst Case Scenario	B.O.B.		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	[illegible] Show	Dokyu		
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	Pinoy Big Brother	Panday	Wonderful Life	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season 1)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	The 4400 (Season 2)		Renegade (Season II)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Supernatural (Season 1)		Hex (Season I)	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Wild Force	PokéMon	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Tsik Sa Dibdib				[illegible]				Yin Yang Master 2				Pedro Penduko 2				Abandonada	
Cinemax			[illegible] (3:40 PM)			[illegible] (5:05 PM)			The Prosecutors			[illegible]			The Big Red One (9:40 PM)				No Way Up
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	CNN Business Traveller	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Crossing Jordan		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	North Mission Road	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		[illegible]		Cold Case		Prison Break	
Discovery Channel		In The Eye Of The Storm		[illegible]		Animal Face-Off		The Future Is Wild		Extreme Engineering		Moon Machine	Connect	Mythbusters		[illegible]		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible]	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Inspector Gadget			Tutenstein	Lizzie McGuire	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Heidi	
ESPN						World Tennis Masters '05		Table Tennis '05 [illegible]	Championship College FL USA	2005 [illegible]				Sportscenter Asia	Pool Snooker World Pool League '04 Poland		Pool Snooker World Pool League '04 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	[illegible]	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	[illegible]		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	[illegible] Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	EWTN Presents		EWTN Live [illegible] Fr. [illegible]		Daily Mass Live		[illegible] Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the [illegible]	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Snow White Sweet Love		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	Love Of The Condor Heroes		Jewel In The Palace		Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters IV		Family Plan (4:05 PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Spooks		Ordinary Miracles			Spooks (11:45PM)
HBO		Going For Broke			Starship Troopers 2			Darklight			Criminal			Sahara			Beverly Hills Cop II		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Shadow Of The Elves	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier	[illegible]	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Mission Odyssey
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Series		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonight	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show With David Letterman		Smackdown				JLU	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	The Late Show With David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Tyler's Ultimate	Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private [illegible]	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'D		Handpicked: Gary V	Pop Inc		MTV Hits (with [illegible])			Get Spotted	Rex In The City	Summerbreak [illegible]	Ultrasound Gary V	TRL		Punk'D		Sessions: Gary V.	Rockola
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX [illegible]	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	Nat'l Geographic [illegible] Forbidden Zone		MegaStructures: [illegible]		Naked Science: Shark Attack		Top 5: World's [illegible]		[illegible] Lion of the Andes		About Asia: The [illegible] Code		Nat'l Geographic Special: [illegible]				Naked Science: Telepathy	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp	[illegible]	Teledyaryo W/ [illegible]		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Mahal Kita Final Answer				Coach				Buhay Kamao				[illegible]				Blonde 2
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zipang	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)		Mona		Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	O, Mare Ko		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene	Over The [illegible] Fence
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN [illegible] News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Poker Hour
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Quantum Global		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports					NBA Home Video: [illegible]		NBA Playoffs [illegible]					NBA Playoffs [illegible]					Solar Sports Desk	FIVB 2006 Dubai [illegible]	
Sports Plus						World Poker Tour 2				[illegible] 12	[illegible]	World's Greatest Auto Shows		World Game		Auto Focus		[illegible] Celebrity Poker Challenge	
Star Movies			The Truth About Cats And Dogs (3:25 PM)			Spartan (5:05 PM)				A View To A Kill (6:50 PM)				Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle			Solo (10:20PM)		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		American Idol	The Simple Life	The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	American Idol	The Simple Life	Scrubs	Arrested Development	The Drew Carey Show (Series 6)	Less Than Perfect	Seinfeld	American Idol [illegible]
Studio 23				PBL Game 2				Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Videos		Joey (8:20 PM)	Ghost Whisperer (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Rally World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

EZ2 15 27

SUERTRES 2 3 1

(All in exact order)

FOUR DIGIT 5 7 7 4

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Across the NATION

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

MEGALOTTO 6/45 20 24 31 38 40 43

₱30,878,584.20

Mayor in murder tries to leave RP

By Nikko Dizon

A TOWN MAYOR WAS STOPPED FROM LEAVING THE country yesterday after his name was placed on the Bureau of Immigration watch list in connection with the murder of a publisher in Aurora province last year.

Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde was booked on Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight PR 300 for Hong Kong that was set to leave at 8 a.m. from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Centennial Terminal yesterday.

But immigration officers told Ylarde he cannot leave because he was on the BI watch list.

Ylarde was not detained because there was no warrant for his arrest, according to Ferdinand Sampol, head supervisor of the BI-Naia.

Sampol said Ylarde did not protest his inclusion in the watch list and simply left the airport.

The mayor also did not mention the purpose of his trip abroad, Sampol added.

Only last week, state prosecutors found probable cause to charge Ylarde with the murder of Philip Agustin, the editor and publisher of the weekly Starline Times Recorder.

The resolution was received by Agustin's family as they marked his first death anniversary last May 10.

Agustin, 54, was gunned down inside his daughter's home after he delivered copies of his weekly in Dingalan, Aurora.

Agustin had been critical of Ylarde, a former policeman, in his columns.

The weekly also carried stories alleging that Ylarde had profited from the calamity funds received by the town in the wake of a landslide that killed hundreds in 2004.

Agustin was the fourth Filipino journalist killed since the start of 2005.

Last Tuesday, reporter Albert Orsolino was gunned down in Caloocan City.

Relatives of Agustin have appealed for justice on the first anniversary of his murder that has remained unsolved like the cases of 38 other Filipino journalists killed in the last five years.

Nenita Mendoza, sister of the slain Starline Times Recorder publisher Philip Agustin, said the family was expecting a "fair resolution" from the new panel of prosecutors assigned by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in March.

"We have waited long and all that we expect is a fair resolution," Mendoza said.

She said they wanted Dingalan Mayor Jaime Ylarde included in the charges as the "mastermind" in Agustin's slay.

A previous resolution, which came on the eighth month of the preliminary investigation, excluded Ylarde from among the suspects but recommended his further investigation by the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

Relatives of Agustin as well as his friend, Dingalan Councilor Valentino Lapuz, had contested the Jan. 26, 2006 resolution and sought the relief of Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

1,000 Luisita workers want to own lots through CARP

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—AT least 1,103 farm workers at the Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac have signed a petition seeking individual ownership of lots at the Cojuangco-family owned estate.

The farmers' group Farmworkers Agrarian Reform Movement-Hacienda Luisita (Farm-Luisita), submitted the 75-page petition to the Department of Agrarian Reform in Quezon City on Tuesday, according to Renato Lalic, Farm-Luisita secretary general.

The government has placed 4,874 hectares of the sugar estate under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Farm-Luisita went ahead with the petition even as the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Alyansa ng Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita and United Luisita Workers Union—which led the agrarian strike at the hacienda from November 2004 to November 2005—asserted a collective mode of ownership over the property to ensure long-term possession by tillers.

The petition also went on despite an earlier policy announcement by Agrarian Reform Undersecretary Narciso Nieto Jr. that the estate, which is covered by five titles, would be collectively owned by the beneficiaries through a Certificate of Land Ownership Awards.

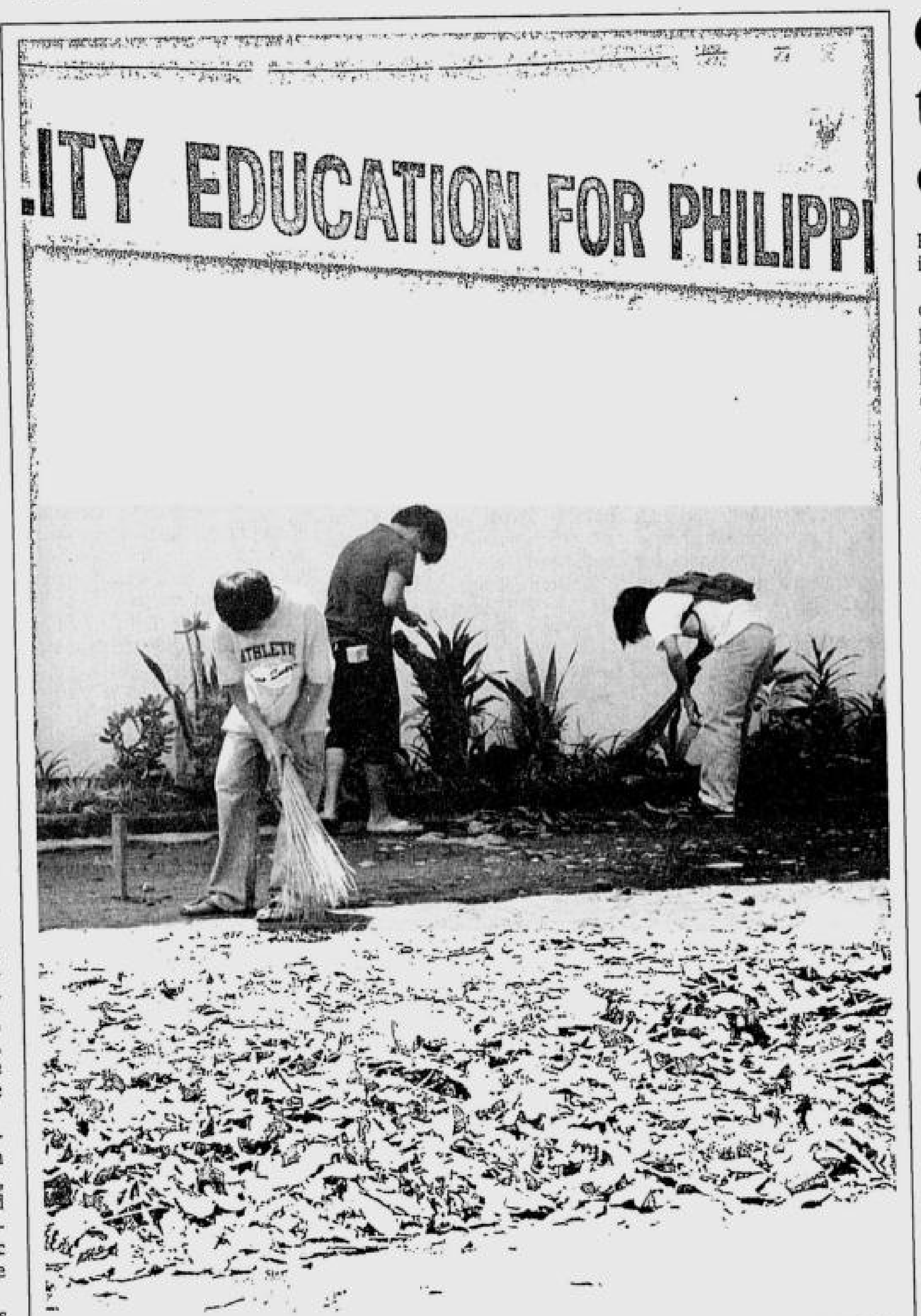
Lalic said the signatories are legitimate farm workers living in three villages on the Concepcion, Tarlac, side of the estate. He said the farmers meet the qualification set by Section 22 of Republic Act 6657 or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988.

The Hacienda Luisita Inc. does not want changes in the form of land ownership, insisting that they retain the stock distribution option (SDO) scheme. The HLI questioned before the Supreme Court the cancellation of the SDO by the DAR and the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council.

In their letter to Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, the farm workers said they "voluntarily signed" the petition.

It was endorsed by Lalic, Farm-Luisita Chair Noel Mallari and chapter presidents Manuel Bulatao in Barangay Parang, Roger Amurao in Barangay Pando and Victor Cordero in Barangay Mabilog.

"Farm workers would have full control of the land only through the distribution of lands to them," the officers said in a letter. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

WORK NOW, STUDY LATER

The lack of funds of many public schools in the country is forcing students, like these at the Doña Carmen Denia National High School in Toril, Davao City, to volunteer for cleaning chores in their schools in preparation for the opening of classes next month.

Church sticks to same line on population

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—FOCUS ON SOLVING poverty, not on reducing population.

San Fernando Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, chair of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, gave that advice as he sought an end to debates by legislators and government planners on the projected slowdown in the annual population growth rate.

"They should stop debating about the population. That's unnecessary because it's bound to go down. Our people are already intelligent. They will only bring out into the world the children they can support," Aniceto told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

He also urged those in government, especially lawmakers, to "divert" public resources away from population management and instead allot these for livelihood programs and job creation.

"[Birth control] pills should not be bought anymore. The funds should be concentrated in the alleviation of poverty and in the advancement and development of our people," Aniceto said.

Poverty, he said, is not a result of a big population but the outcome of the concentration of wealth on a few people, families and companies.

Aniceto also continued to campaign against House Bill 3773 (Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005), calling it "not a reproductive health measure but a destructive health bill."

"It poisons the metabolism of the mother. A genuine reproductive health bill promotes the health and dignity of women. We should not depend on chemicals in order to reduce our population," he said.

Aniceto assailed what he observed as a practice in government-managed health centers. There, he noted, couples are told outright to use contraceptives.

Couples, he said, should be allowed to decide "according to their conscience and principles of their Church."

"What we need is not birth control. What we need is self-restraint and that's the real meaning of freedom. We should be able to decide [on the methods] that would make us more humane, human and more worthy of our dignity as Filipinos and as children of God," he said.

The Catholic Church approves only of natural family planning methods.

Aniceto said the figures that matter most are those that actually show that the poor are getting more access to health care, education, jobs and lands, and are earning decent wages.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

BIR exec who flunked lifestyle check gets promotion

COTABATO CITY—A RANKING REVenue officer here, who recently flunked a lifestyle check, had been promoted.

In his order dated May 10, Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag told Mama Marzoc, director of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) district office 18 here, to report to Cagayan de Oro City.

Buñag said the reassignment was a promotion for Marzoc. Seven other revenue officials were also named to higher positions through the same order.

Marzoc was being accused of amassing unexplained wealth during his 37 years in the government service. He allegedly owns several pieces of real estate property. He denied any wrongdoing and maintained he was being framed up.

Marzoc said he was vindicated by the promotion brought about by his "good tax collection performance."

Under the latest BIR order of assignment, Marzoc will formally replace Araceli Francisco on May 24. Francisco was being reassigned to the BIR district office 9 in San Pablo City.

Marzoc's vacated post here will be taken over by Mustapha Gandarosa, BIR central office executive assistant for policy and planning service.

Other officers promoted were BIR-9 director Corazon Pangcog of San Pablo City, who will act as officer in charge and assistant commissioner at the central office in Manila; excise large taxpayers division executive assistant Elvira Vera as new head of the BIR's policy and planning service; and collection enforcement division chief Teresita Angeles, who was named acting chief of the excise large taxpayers division.

From acting executive assistant at the taxpayers' assistance service, director Aida Simborio will take over as acting assistant commissioner for taxpayers assistance while chief revenue officer Erlinda Pengosro, of Baguio City, will be the acting director for the Cordillera Autonomous Region, which is also based in Baguio City. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Owwa exec suspended on molestation complaint from OFW

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—AN OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) official in Saudi Arabia has been suspended pending investigation of allegations that he molested a female Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who sought his help in February.

Owwa chief Marianito Roque said Ed Esguerra, Owwa counselor based in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, had been recalled to the Philippines to serve his suspension and to face the complaint filed by an OFW from Negros Occidental.

"We will let due process take its course," Roque told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Roque said he filed the administrative case against Esguerra based on the complaint filed by the OFW at the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

"The Negrense did not want to sign her complaint under oath so I had to be the one to file the complaint," he added.

Roque said he met with the OFW while in Saudi Arabia and acted on her complaint. "We took care of her and placed her in a halfway house."

Esguerra was immediately recalled and suspended, he added.

The OFW accused Esguerra, who is in his 50s, of molesting her in February when she sought his help after fleeing from her Arab employer who had been making sexual advances.

"I would like to express my disappointment and disgust over what happened. I was able to thwart the sexual advances of my Arab employer ... but I fell into the hands of a fellow Filipino who just took advantage of me," she said in an affidavit executed at the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh.

In her affidavit, the OFW said she had been working as a domestic helper for Ahmed Ibrahim Dobis in Doha, Dhahran, since 2004.

Kathy said Dobis tried to molest her a number of times but she was able to thwart his sexual advances. But last Feb. 2, she decided to run away.

She sought the help of a domestic helper and driver of a neighboring house in Doha who contacted Esguerra for assistance.

Kathy said she was brought by her companions to a shopping center in Khobar where she was fetched by Esguerra. They got into a white vehicle driven by a certain Alex.

Upon reaching the Polo Building, Esguerra allegedly brought her to a room on the second floor, which she said had a big bed, red sofas, a side table and a big cabinet.

According to her statement, her description resembled the room occupied by Esguerra at Room 2008 in Polo Building.

It was inside the room where the Owwa officer allegedly made his sexual advances.

People's Choice
SUPERBRANDS HALL OF FAME
voted by readers
SUPER BRAND
Reader's Digest Philippines
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2005
SUPER BRAND PLATINUM 2004
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2003
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2002
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2001
SUPER BRAND GOLD 2000
SUPER BRAND GOLD 1999
PILOT
Smooth Advancement in writing technology
G-2
Retractable BALL POINT PENS

BL-G2-5
BL-G2-7
Philippine Exclusive Distributor:
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
571 Q. PAREDES ST., BINONDO, MANILA
P.O. BOX 1601 Tels.: 243-6912 to 14 Fax:242-5671
PILOT CORPORATION
Tokyo Japan

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Kayaking around Mindoro in 18 days

By Madonna T. Virola
San Jose, Occidental Mindoro

AT 7:40 P.M. ON April 22, three men landed on the shores of Barangay San Roque I in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, putting their paddles to rest after 18 days of navigating the island's contours.

Eric M. Ramirez, Immanuel "Iman" Peñaflor and Ariel "Taboy" Bacason began their voyage on April 5 in the same place, focused on their mission to become the first to circle Mindoro in solo kayaks.

The Mindoro Kayaking 2006 Expedition, as they called themselves, is a bonding of three individuals of disparate pursuits.

Ramirez, 34, is a US migrant on vacation in Mindoro, his birthplace. A licensed nurse in New Jersey, although he finished aeronautical engineering at the PATTS School of Aeronautics in Manila, he left the island for the United States in 1993.

His friend from way back in college in Manila, Peñaflor, 38, is a successful furniture maker. He earned his Associate in Electrical Engineering degree at the Feati University.

Bacason, 33, is a gardener at a beach resort, a last-minute replacement for an original team member who had backed out.

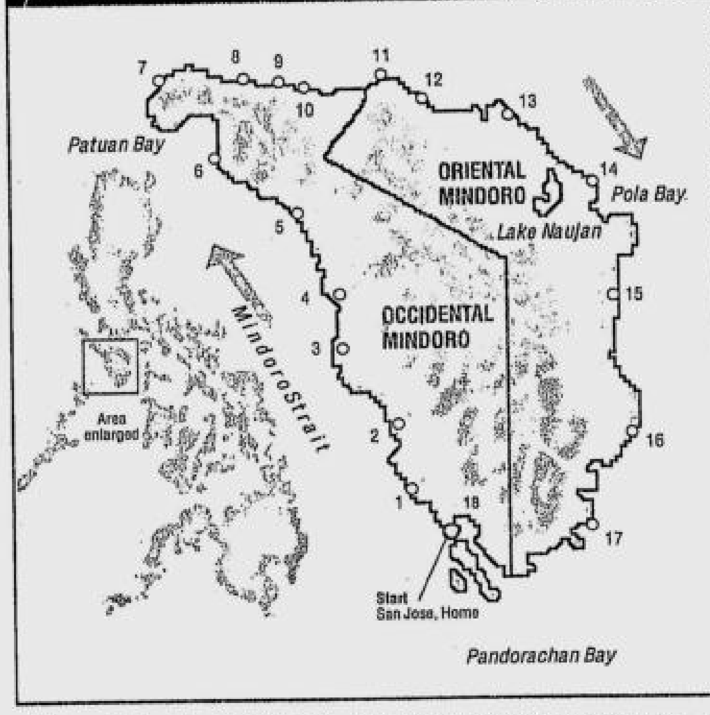
Preparations

With Ramirez leading the adventure, the group consumed one year and a half to prepare the equipment they would need.

Into "*paraw*" (native outrigger boat) sailing after a two-year training in Aklan's Boracay, he voraciously read books and other materials on kayaking. He visited kayak shows in New Jersey and sent a sample of a kayak to Peñaflor for him to copy for the Mindoro adventure.

Propelled by double-bladed paddles, modern kayaks trace their origins to the native boats used in Alaska as early as 4,000 years ago, according to archaeologists.

Circumnavigating the Island



Day 1	Sudlon, Rizal
Day 2	San Isidro, Calintaan
Day 3	Sablayan
Day 4	Pandan River
Day 5	Pagbarahan River
Day 6	Igsusu, Paluan
Day 7	Itbo, Calavite
Day 8	Mananaw, Paluan
Day 9	Basli, Abra de Ilog
Day 10	Apyas, Abra de Ilog
Day 11	White Beach, Puerto Galera
Day 12	San Teodoro
Day 13	Navotas, Calapan
Day 14	Brgy. Misong, Pola
Day 15	Balite, Gloria
Day 16	Roxas
Day 17	Dangkalan, Bulalacad
Day 18	San Jose, Home

INQGRAPHICS: ANTHONY MISTADES

The sleek, elongated boats were the seacraft of choice by the three who were out for an adventure.

To call the kayak trio a "cruising" troop would be an understatement as travel around the island in this type of boat requires astute maneuvering skills in waters they had just begun to explore.

The group said they prepared for two tough areas, one of them off Calavite at the northwestern tip, where the waves were normally about one meter high. "There was a point where we couldn't see each other," they said.

The other area . was Borongkaan at the boundary of the two Mindoro provinces south of the island.

Exploration

Ramirez said he didn't know Mindoro well and that exploring the island gave him the feeling he was out to conquer a familiar yet unknown territory.

On Day 5, he saw a wild duck sanctuary at the Pinagbarahan River, between Sta. Cruz and Mamburao. Two days later, they marvelled at the waterfalls cascading from the mountain to the sea at Itbo, Calavite. They saw Mangyan children paddling in the open sea.

At Mananaw, Paluan, the next day, Peñaflor met natives who sold pebbles for a living and got acquainted with residents of Basil, Abra de Ilog, on the following day.

Day 9 was Holy Thursday. The group observed strong winds and hesitated to continue their trip. The people offered them a hut for shelter, steamed rice and liquor as night capper.

Wrong turn

It was a memorable Good Friday. The kayakers made a wrong turn from Calavite and Paluan in Occidental Mindoro toward Puerto Galera as they maneuvered against the wind.

Ramirez saw Bacason paddling fiercely but staying on the same spot. He rushed toward Bacason, who was about five miles away, but saw him drifting away from track.

"I thought Taboy's kayak overturned, but I realized he was not even worried," he said, proud of his teammate whose presence of mind boosted the group's morale.

At this time, their kayaks were almost destroyed by big waves that pushed them to the shores.

When Ramirez's kayak went upside down, the three decided to take a break at a resort in Apyas, Abra de Ilog on Day 11.

'Gift from heaven'

White Beach in Puerto Galera "was like a gift from heaven." It relaxed their sore and aching muscles. Ramirez said he would have wanted to indulge in snorkeling but missed the chance because of fever.

In Punta Beach, San Teodoro on Day 12, Easter Sunday, the group was offered small cottages for P500 by a group of women and several men already intoxicated with native liquor. The price was eventually lowered to P300.

On Day 16, the journeymen encountered wind gusts that gave them a difficult time kayaking in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro. "The waves came from different directions, unlike those in Calavite where waves were only [coming from] one direction," they said.

They decided to take a siesta and went videoke singing with the people at Dalahican Beach Resort.

The next day, they were greeted by barangay *tanod* (village guards) in a Mangyan-populated island community called Dangkalan in Bulalacao, the southernmost town of Oriental Mindoro.

Peñaflor said he could not forget the Mangyan in g-string who asked for his mobile phone number, saying he might be able to go to Manila and could call him up.

Insights

The local residents at various points of the trip gave the group a glimpse of how they have been eking out a living in the coastal communities. Some were fishermen engaged in dynamite fishing, while others were farmers clearing the mountains.

One man leaves his house at dawn to fish, only to return several hours later with just a single small catch to offer his wife waiting on the shore.

On the last day, the trio doubled their sails to 50 miles because of a desire to be home immediately. Why should we prolong the trip? the thought occurred.

Home sweet home

As they neared their last stop, they kept thinking of their experiences and how they all began. Nothing would compare to the sight of the shoreline, their final stop, they said.

"When I saw the shoreline with my head lamp, I raised my paddle and swam toward our families, about 20 of them," Ramirez said.

"We were very excited to go home as we missed our families so much."

Their families did not know the details of the expedition and were told of their arrival only on the final day by Ramirez's mother while they were still in Alibug, Magsaysay, some 25 miles away.

They also did not even know it was Earth Day.

KAYAK adventurers (from left) Immanuel Peñaflor, Eric Ramirez and Ariel Bacason arrive in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. MADONNA T. VIROLA

What they brought along

4 paddles, 3 life vests, 1 six-person tent, 3 sleeping bags, 3 bilge pumps to siphon off water, foam, a global positioning system compass, map, survival kit (2-liter container, signal mirror, whistle and saw), nylon fishing line and hook, condom (for emergency water), lancets and mini flashlight, corned beef, dried meat, sardines, Power bars (energy bars packed with complex carbohydrates with high calorie content), mobile phone, head lamp, battery-powered lamp, underwater camera, machete, rope, silverware, soap, clothes, sun block lotion, insect repellant, pots and pans, sponge, camping stove, shower bag as drinking water container, mattress, pair of binoculars, dry bags, lots of plastic bags, and waterproof gear.

Mining town reinvents itself

By Gerald Gene R. Querubin
Sta. Cruz, Marinduque

THE FORMER COPPER mining town of Sta. Cruz in Marinduque is trying to reinvent itself as a tourism destination.

Blessed by pristine beaches, scenic nature spots, and historical landmarks, the former mining site of Marinduque Copper Mining Corp. (Marcopper) is 150 km south of Manila, which makes it more accessible to tourists than Boracay, Cebu or Palawan.

The first-class municipality (average annual income: P35 million or more over the past three years) is the premier destination of the heart-shaped island-province.

As the seafood capital of Marinduque, Sta. Cruz yields an abundant harvest of "*dilis*" or "*bulinao*" (small fish), the kind being bought by "*bagoong*" (salted fish paste) makers from as far as Pangasinan. It celebrated its first seafood festival on May 1-3.

Beaches

The main showcase of Sta. Cruz is the Palo Maria Beach in Barangay Maniwaya. The white-sand beach with clean, clear waters is regarded as one of the finest in the country.

Tourists will discover there first-class amenities still untampered by gaudy commercialism. They can also leave behind their "insignia" of footprints on the other beaches, such as the pebbled Dapdap and Maligaya.

Dapdap Beach in Barangay Tagum is a 30-minute jeepney ride from the poblacion, while Maligaya Beach in Barangay Morales is a 45-minute jeepney ride.

Other beaches are the Kalangkang and Biga.

Island-villages also boast of scenic beaches. Polo has Aroma Beach, a 15-minute ride by motorboat from Buyabod Port, which is now frequented by visitors because of its nearness to the town proper.

Mongpong Island is another gem of a find because of its white beaches.

Waterfalls

A refreshing choice for visitors are the Kawa-Kawa Falls in Barangay Bangcuangan, the Bagakawa Falls in Barangay Tambangan, and the Altar Falls in Barangay De Villa.

They, however, need not look far because Sta. Cruz has waterfalls right within the poblacion. From where they are staying, they can walk for 5-10 minutes to the Busay Falls, complete with dipping pools for children and adults.

Busay is less than a kilometer from the Sta. Cruz Parish Church, the oldest church in the town center.

Built in 1760, it houses centuries-old religious sculptures and the wide-paneled "*retablos*" at the center and the sides.

Less than five minutes of tricycle ride from the church is the centuries-old Baluarte or watch tower in Barangay Lapu-Lapu, which was once used by natives to spot and ward off possible attacks by pirates.

Caves

Tourists can visit the Bathala Caves System in Barangay Ipil, a 20-minute ride from the town proper. Inside the caves are wonderful stalactites, stalagmites and other natural rock formations. Thousands of guano-producing bats inhabit the place.

In one of the caves, guests can marvel at the "enchanted" pythons guarding it. The more adventurous, however, can wade in waist-deep waters of the Bathala's River Cave.

For nature lovers, the municipality offers areas for hiking, trekking and trail biking.

"Visitors would marvel not only at its beaches, scenic spots and historical landmarks but also at the low-cost food and accommodations," said Mayor Percival Morales.

Since the beaches of Sta. Cruz have not been commercialized yet, visitors can stay overnight through the "home stay program" implemented by the Provincial Tourism Office.

They can stay in houses near the beaches. The more adventurous may bring their camping gear and pitch tents on the beach. However, making bonfires or cooking at the beach is discouraged.

Hotels and lodging houses can be found at the town proper.

GETTING THERE

By land: From Manila, take a JAC Liner from Edsa/Kamias/Cubao station. A bus that travels directly to Sta. Cruz, Marinduque charges P500 one-way.

Or take any bus (JAC liner, JAM liner or Dela Rosa liner) going to Talao-Talao Port in Lucena City. From there, fastcraft and ferry boats go to Buyabod port in Sta. Cruz, or to Cawit Boac or Balanacan port, Mogpog. From Cawit or Balanacan, vans or jeeps travel to Sta. Cruz.

There are also vans that travel from Manila to Talao-Talao.

By air: Asian Spirit offers regular flights four times a week to Gasan Airport. Travel time is approximately 45 minutes from Manila. Public shuttle vehicles are available to passengers headed for various destinations.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines ("DBP"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), hereby issues this invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase and assumption of DBP's rights, title, interest and obligations on certain non-performing loans and assets with the aggregate amount of Two Hundred Fourteen Million One Hundred Forty Thousand and 00/100 (P214,140,000.00). The non-performing loans and assets will be sold on CASH BASIS ONLY, AS-IS, WHERE-IS-BASIS AND NO RECOURSE TO DBP.

The non-performing loans and assets will be sold through a sealed-bid public auction process. Detailed Bidding Guidelines and Information Materials will be provided to each bidder that qualifies to participate in the public auction.

All interested parties may obtain starting on May 11, 2006 to May 23, 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Terms of Reference for Pre-qualification from and at the following address upon payment of non-refundable fee of Pesos: Fifty Thousand and 00/100 (P50,000.00):

THE SECRETARIAT
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE ("BAC")
c/o The Head, Remedial Management 2, Asset Management
Ground Floor, DBP Building
Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. G. J. Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue
Makati City, Philippines1200

Each interested party that submits itself for pre-qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria set forth in the Terms of Reference for Pre-qualification.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements for prequalification shall be on May 25, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., Manila time and is non-extendible.

THE DBP ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY ANY INTERESTED PARTY, PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXCUSE OR LOSS THAT ANY SUCH PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN THE PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING PROCESS.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL INTERESTED PARTY(IES) FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION; AND, REJECT ANY AND ALL BID(S), TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BID(S) AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For particulars, please inquire as follows:

THE SECRETARIAT
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE ("BAC")
c/o The Head, Remedial Management 2, Asset Management
Ground Floor, DBP Building
Development Bank of the Philippines
Sen. G. J. Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200
Telephone no.: (632) 818-95-11 Locals 2167 and 2169

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO O. SAMIA**
Executive Vice President and
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI–May 11 & 18, 2006)

The origin of the Opus Dei: 'God's Marines'

OPUS DEI—LATIN FOR "THE work of God"—is a relatively small group of roughly 85,000 Catholics, mostly lay men and women but including clergy as well, founded in 1928 in Madrid, Spain, by St. Josemaria Escriva.

Opus Dei arose from the ferment in European Catholicism of the early 20th century, alarmed by the growing gap between the Church and the secular world. It was one of many new forms of life in Catholicism designed to "evangelize" secularity, meaning to bring the message of the gospel to the modern street.

Escriva's vision was to form a corps of lay men and women who would then bring Christianity into the boardrooms, parliaments, lecture halls and newsrooms of the modern world. It would be the laity, not the clerical caste, who would "redeem" secularity.

All of this is expressed in Opus Dei's core spiritual ideas, the "sanctification of work." Escriva encouraged his followers not to compartmentalize their religious lives, to see their ordinary daily work just as "religious" an activity as going to church on Sunday. Opus Dei numbers 1,850 priests, along with 83,641 laity.

There are three main categories of members—numeraries, who are celibate and live in Opus Dei centers; associates, who are like numeraries but live on their own; and supernumeraries, who are generally married and live with their families. In theory, these are distinctions in one's mode of life, not in level of commitment.

—Excerpts from "What is Opus Dei" by John Allen, author of "Opus Dei: An Objective Look Behind the Myths and Reality of the Most Controversial Force in the Catholic Church."

Opus Dei in RP: It began with 3 Harvard boys

From page A1

mind. Harvard, of all places, was where he got snared, so to speak.

There, he met Bernardo Villegas and Placido Mapa who were also doing doctorate studies in economics. All three became drawn to Opus Dei and eventually sought membership—Villegas and Estanislao as numeraries, and Mapa as a supernumerary. The three brought Opus Dei to the Philippines and some parts of Asia and were instrumental in its growth in the region.

Numeraries are lay people who are committed to a life of celibacy, live together in an Opus Dei residence and follow a relatively structured regimen even while practicing their chosen professions in the secular world. They study philosophy and theology as would be required for priesthood.

Supernumeraries are generally married and live with their families. *(See sidebar above.)*

God's Marines

Numerary comes from the Latin word numerus and has a Roman militaristic origin. Opus Dei members sometimes think of themselves as "God's Marines."

And what attracted Estanislao to "the work"?

"I realized I could remain an economist, that I need not give up being one, while offering everything to God," Estanislao explains. "We have a mission to put God into people's lives while maintaining a personal relationship with God." It is a call, a vocation, he adds.

Opus Dei's Spanish founder, St. Josemaria Escriva (canonized in 2000) was still alive at that time, and Villegas had gone to Barcelona to meet with him. Estanislao later met with Escriva in Mexico.

"He was very interested in the Philippines," Estanislao remembers. "He told me, 'If you leave it up to me I'd like to be buried in the Philippines.'" It was an encounter he would never forget.

IT HAPPENED AT HARVARD for Dr. Jesus Estanislao while pursuing a doctoral degree in economics: He discovered the Opus Dei and brought it to his home country. CERES DOYO

Beginnings in RP

Before starting anything, the Harvard boys first had to get the approval of then Manila Archbishop Rufino Cardinal Santos.

The first Opus Dei center for men in Manila was in the compound of the Villegas family in Singalong. It opened in 1964 to students, many of them from De La Salle University.

Estanislao and Villegas, a La Sallite, who had gone through spiritual formation and theological studies, conducted talks and recollections. Joining them later were two Spanish priests of Opus Dei, Fathers Jose Morales and Javier de Pedro, and numerary Jose Rivera, an engineer.

In April 1965 the apostolate moved to a bigger place, the Maynilad Study Center in Malate. This would be a venue for education and training for male students and professionals. And of course, for recruitment.

YOUNG NUMERARIES at the Tanglaw Residence in Quezon City are mostly professionals and intellectuals. CERES DOYO

Drawing students

Soon, Opus Dei gained a foothold in the University of the Philippines in Quezon City. To serve that part of Metro Manila, Opus Dei built the Banahaw Cultural Center in 1968. Two more priests arrived to serve the needs of the growing number of male students and professionals.

The women of Opus Dei who arrived in 1965 also built a student residence on Leon Guinto Street in Malate, attracting both students and professionals.

"I was among those who frequently visited the center," says Rosie Tagasan who was taking up statistics at UP in the early 1970s.

"They were always speaking in English and I didn't feel at ease," Tagasan recalls. If that didn't draw her to Opus Dei, the wide array of reading materials did.

Tagasan's visits to the center became more frequent. She did not become a numerary right away and first had to see to it that her widowed mother and younger siblings were economically okay. Financial stability and a good intellect are among the requisites for numeraries.

Although Tagasan's job in a foreign company meant living for many years in Asian countries that were not predominantly Catholic, she didn't have to stop being a numerary and found ways to live out her religious commitment. Not too long ago, she came home for good and became director of the Makiling Conference Center in Calamba, Laguna. She lives in the adjacent residence for female numeraries, a well-appointed one, no doubt, that opens to a lush and wooded area.

Expansion

In August 1967, numeraries Estanislao and Villegas put up the Center for Research and Communication (CRC), a business and economic think tank.

The CRC was to be an instrument that would carry the church to the workplace, so to speak, and impart Catholic teachings to professionals in business, law, journalism, education and other key sectors. Among the early recruits was another Harvard graduate Jose Romero, economist and business journalist, who later became a supernumerary.

In 1995, the CRC became the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) where some 2,000 students are currently enrolled. Its tuition is among the most prohibitive. Its campus is in the heart of the Ortigas business center in Pasig. Villegas had served as university president.

Despite its big chapel with a grand gilded altar decorated with renaissance-style paintings (a trademark of Opus Dei chapels), and the regular presence of Opus Dei priests for daily Masses and confessions, UA&P is not a Catholic school.

This is what Antonio Torralba, dean of UA&P's College of Arts and Sciences, wants to point out. UA&P is not a member of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines. But doctrinal soundness in the courses and pastoral work in the campus are entrusted to members of Opus Dei, Torralba adds.

Values education is very prominent in the curriculum and other activities for the youth, Torralba adds. When the INQUIRER visited Opus Dei-affiliated Balete Farm School in Batangas, Torralba was there with young UA&P graduates giving seminars on love and sexuality.

"Okay, UA&P is an Opus Dei flagship," numerary and Opus Dei information officer Conrado Ma. Ricafort concedes when pressed to explain the seeming hesitancy among members to get their institutions labeled as Catholic and Opus Dei.

He adds that to further the Church's mission to sanctify and evangelize, members, parents especially, put up foundations that run schools and centers, the chaplaincy of which is entrusted to Opus Dei.

Among these are Woodrose School for girls and Southridge School for boys in posh Ayala-Alabang. Parents have also established schools in Quezon City, Cebu and Iloilo.

Opus Dei institutions that are run as corporate projects—20 study centers, eight cultural development centers for professionals, three retreat/seminar houses, one university and five professional training centers for women.

Schools run by Opus Dei members—eight grade schools and high schools, three vocational-technical schools for men and five farm schools.

Ricafort says that running training centers for the poor and out-of-school youth are the members' way of applying the social teachings of the Church and its "preferential option for the poor."

(To be continued)

Critics pan 'Da Vinci' in Cannes

From page A1

tianity's roots.

While readers worldwide devoured the novel, reaction from Cannes critics ranged from mild endorsement of its pot-boiler suspense to groans of ridicule over its heavy melodrama.

"It's a movie about whether the greatest story ever told is true or not, and it's not the greatest movie ever screened, is it?" said Baz Bamigboye, a film columnist for London's Daily Mail. "As a thriller, well," he continued, shrugging.

"Maybe the next day I'll forget about it," said Igor Soukmanov of Unistar Radio in Belarus. "But today for two hours it was good entertainment ... As a Hollywood movie, it's a very nice picture."

Critics got their first look at "The Da Vinci Code" a day before its world premiere at Cannes on Wednesday, when it also debuts at theaters in France and some other countries. The film opens worldwide over the following two days. It opens in the Philippines today.

Directed by Ron Howard, the movie stars Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou as strangers hurled together on a frantic quest for the Holy Grail after a series of murders is committed.

The filmmakers added some twists and variations here and there, but the general thrust of the novel remained intact, including its theory that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene were married and had a child, which has prompted denouncements from many Christians.

Restless audience

The Cannes audience clearly grew restless as the movie dragged on to two and a half hours and spun a long sequence of anticlimactic revelations.

"I kept thinking of the Energizer Bunny, because it kept going and going and going, and not in a good way," said James Rocchi, a film critic for CBS 5 television in San Francisco and the online outlet Cinematical. "Ron Howard makes handsome films. He doesn't make bad ones, but he doesn't make great ones."

One especially melodramatic line uttered by Hanks drew prolonged laughter and some catcalls, and the audience continued to titter for much of the film's remainder.

Some people walked out during the movie's closing minutes, although there were fewer departures than many Cannes movies provoke among harsh critics. When the credits rolled, there were a few whistles and hisses, and there was none of the scattered applause even bad movies sometimes receive at Cannes.

Critics singled out costar Ian McKellen, playing a wry Grail enthusiast who joins the search, as the movie's highlight, injecting hearty humor and delivering the most nuanced performance. Paul Bettany was cited for adding a seething mix of tragic pathos and destructive zealousness as a monk assassin who carries out the slayings.

Passionate protests

While critics in Cannes responded cooly to the movie, Christian leaders in Asia voiced fears the movie may sour the image of their religion in the region where Christianity is overshadowed by Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam.

The archbishop of Manila, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, has denounced both the movie and the novel as an attack on the divinity of Jesus Christ. But he has stopped short of calling for a ban in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

THE
DA VINCI
CODE

A PYRAMID-SHAPED tent advertising "The Da Vinci Code" is located on the waterfront as preparations continue for the 59th International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Tuesday, May 16. AP

Marissa Laguardia, head of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), cited the importance of preserving free speech in the Philippines. She said opponents of the film may discourage friends from watching it, but that the movie "has to be shown."

"Otherwise we will be the only country that will not show this film. Thirty-six countries have already reviewed this film and they have not banned it. So are we just out of the Stone Age?" Laguardia said.

The MTRCB approved an adult rating for the movie but stopped short of rating it "X," saying "it does not constitute a clear, express or direct attack on the Catholic Church or religion" and does not libel or defame any person.

Many Christians all over the world consider as blasphemy one of the movie's premises that Jesus Christ married Mary Magdalene and fathered children and that his descendants are still alive.

But Christians in Asia are especially worried that the movie may spread misinformation about their religion, which is a minority faith in many countries of the region.

"If Jesus Christ had a child and a wife, then Christianity would be destroyed," said Thongchai Pradabchananurat, of the Thailand Protestant Churches Coordinating Committee.

A coalition of Christian groups in Thailand, which is more than 90 percent Buddhist, demanded that censors cut the last 15 minutes of the movie, which reveal that Jesus' lineage has continued.

The country's censorship board agreed to snip the last 10 minutes, but the movie's maker, Columbia Pictures, has appealed.

Hunger strike

In India, Joseph Dias, head of the Catholic Secular Forum, went on a hunger strike in downtown Bombay to protest the movie's release in his country, where most of the 1 billion population is Hindu.

After receiving more than 200 complaints, India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi said he was going to see the movie for himself, which may delay by a day or two the film's scheduled release in the country on Friday.

In South Korea which has 13 million Protestants and 4.6 million Roman Catholics, a court ruled Tuesday that a Christian group's request for an injunction to block screenings lacked merit.

"As it is clear that the novel and movie are all fiction ... there is no probability that the movie can make viewers mistakenly believe the contents of the movie are facts," chief judge Song Jin-hyun said in his ruling.

The Christian Council of Korea, an umbrella group of 63 South Korean Protestant denominations, said it respected the ruling but would lead a boycott of the movie, which it said defiles the sanctity of Jesus Christ and distorts facts.

Strength of faith

In Malaysia where nearly 60 percent are Muslims, Bishop Lim Cheng Ean said the strength of Christian faith alone would counter the movie.

"If Christians know their own faith, they will be strong enough. We can leave it to their discretion as to whether they would rather watch the movie or not. That is their free choice," he said.

Australia's Anglican Church, however, isn't taking any chances. Anglican Sydney Media, which promotes the Sydney diocese, has set up a website and launched movie theater ads challenging theories in the "The Da Vinci Code" book to coincide with the release of the movie version.

Albinos unhappy

In another development, members of the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation in the United States expressed unhappiness with the film's heavy, a monk-assassin, being an albino, as described in the book.

Michael McGowan, an albino who heads the organization, said "The Da Vinci Code" would be the 68th movie since 1960 to feature an evil albino.

The "Da Vinci" character "is just the latest in a long string," McGowan said. "The problem is there has been no balance. There are no realistic, sympathetic or heroic characters with albinism that you can find in movies or popular culture." AP

House still a millionaire's club

By Michael Lim Ubac

ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, except the five party-list lawmakers, are millionaires.

Based on the lawmakers' Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth as of Dec. 31, 2005, only party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Rafael Mariano, Crispin Beltran, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador had assets worth less than P1 million.

Mariano, the national chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, was the poorest of them all with no assets and liabilities to speak of.

His total net worth is P18,537.12 representing his monthly salary (P35,000 less tax).

In contrast, Rep. Cynthia Villar, the richest legislator, with P759.8-million in total assets.

She had been on top of the millionaires' list of the House since replacing in 2001 her spouse—then Speaker and now Senator Manuel Villar—as representative of the lone district of Las Piñas.

The summary report was officially released yesterday by Emilia Calonge, director of the House Records Management Division, and Jose Ma. Antonio Tuano, executive director of the House Administrative Management Bureau.

A far second to Villar was President Macapagal-Arroyo's brother-in-law, Ignacio Arroyo of Negros Occidental (P287.5 million), Judy Syjuco of Iloilo (P255 million), Ferjenel Biron of Iloilo (P217.5 million), Rafael Nantes of Quezon (P117.4 million), Edgardo Angara of Aurora (P107 million), Gilbert Teodoro of Pangasinan (P102.6 million), Glenda Ecleo of Surigao del Norte (P94.2 million), Juan Ponce Enrile Jr. of Cagayan (P93.9 million) and Antonio Floirendo of Davao del Norte (P92.3 million).

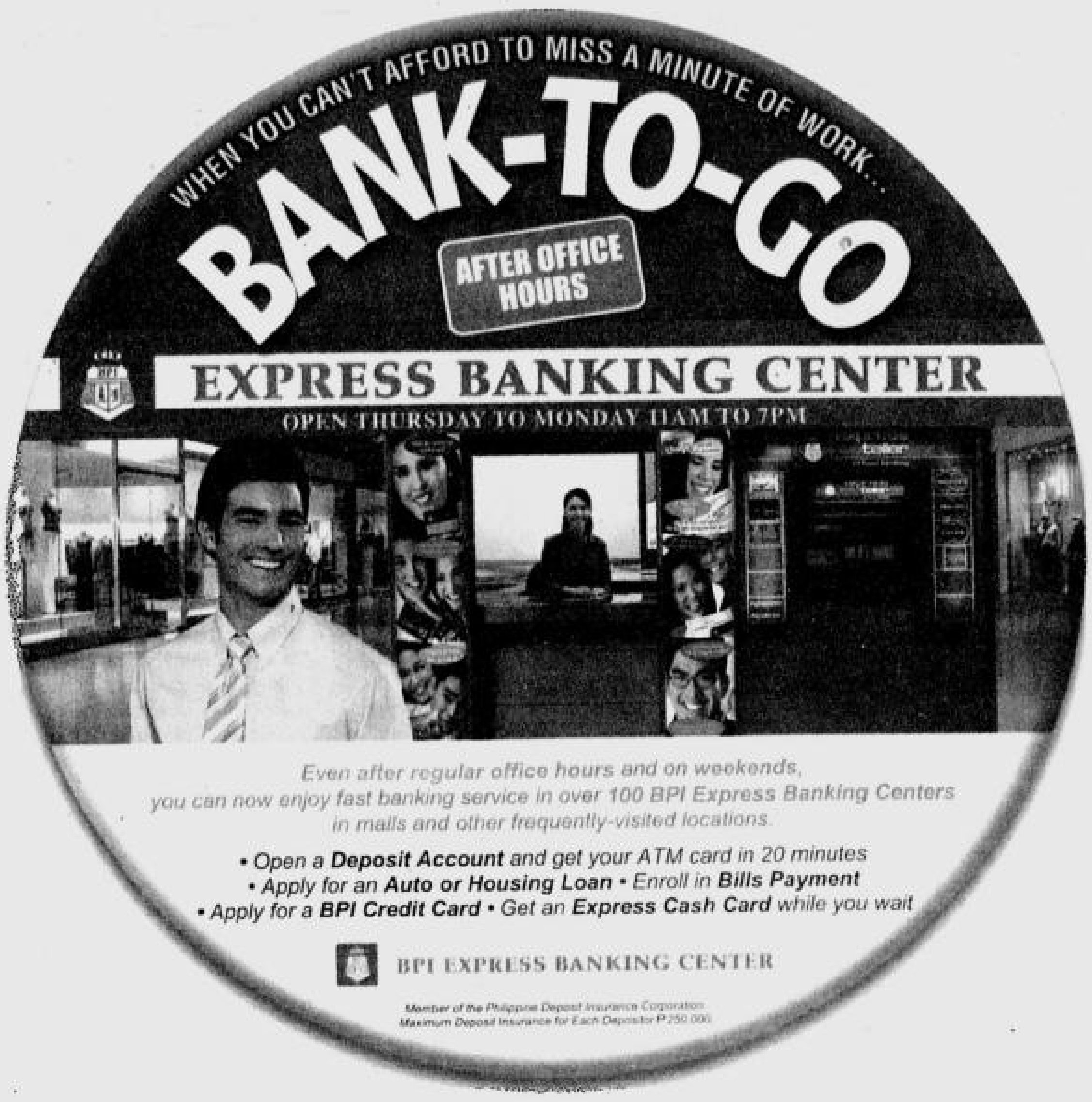
Speaker Jose de Venecia was in 34th slot with P57 million while Minority Leader Francis Escudero placed 177th with P6.9 million.

The President's son, Rep. Mikey Arroyo of Pampanga, took the 19th slot with P76.9 million, while then Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo Puno, now interior secretary, was 11th with P89.4 million.

Ironically, 16 of the 21 party-list lawmakers, supposedly representing marginalized sectors, also belonged to the millionaires' club.

Rep. Rene Velarde (Buhay), the son of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde, was the richest among them with P30.9-million in net worth, followed by Acmad Tomawis (Alyansa ng Indihinong Filpino), Eulogio "Amang" Magsaysay (Alliance of Volunteer Educators), Sunny Rose Madamba (Association of Philippine Electric Cooperative), Joel Villanueva (Citizens' Battle Against Corruption), Edgar Valdez and Ernesto Pablo (Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives), Florencio "Bem" Noel (An Waray), Christian Señeres of Buhay, Rodante Marcoleta of Alagad, Anna Theresa Hontiveros-Baraquel of Akbayan, Guillermo Cua Coop-Natco, Leonila. Chavez o f Butil, Liza Maza of Gabriela; Loretta Ann Rosales of Akbayan and Renato Magtubo of Partido ng Manggagawa.

VILLAR


WHEN YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS A MINUTE OF WORK...
BANK-TO-GO
AFTER OFFICE HOURS
EXPRESS BANKING CENTER
OPEN THURSDAY TO MONDAY 11AM TO 7PM

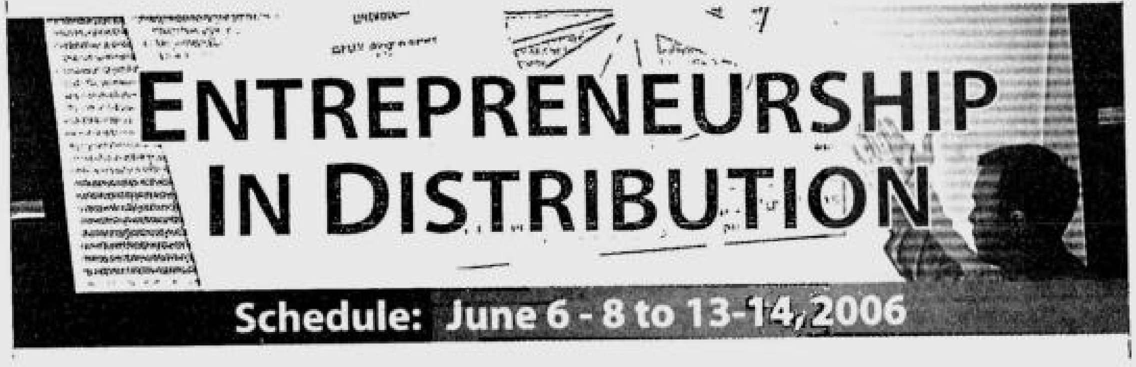
Even after regular office hours and on weekends,
you can now enjoy fast banking service in over 100 BPI Express Banking Centers
in malls and other frequently-visited locations.

- Open a **Deposit Account** and get your ATM card in 20 minutes
- Apply for an **Auto or Housing Loan** • Enroll in **Bills Payment**
- Apply for a **BPI Credit Card** • Get an **Express Cash Card** while you wait

BPI EXPRESS BANKING CENTER

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000

AIM ASIAN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP


ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN DISTRIBUTION
Schedule: June 6 - 8 to 13-14, 2006

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This is a comprehensive five-day entrepreneurship course for owners and key officers of distribution companies. It begins with the dissection of the distribution industry potentials and proceeds to channel strategizing, delivery and operations, finance, principal relationship management and co-brand building.

COURSE CONTENT:

I. Understanding Industry and Market Dynamics
- Dissecting the Logic of Distribution
- Assessing Area, Industry and Product Potentials
- Strategizing for Distributors

II. Channel Planning
- Customer Segmentation, Targeting and Positioning
- Channel Selection
- Channel Relationship Marketing

III. Sales and Distribution Operations
- Sales Force Effectiveness: The Four Rs
- Selecting, Recruiting and Developing People
- Performance Standards and Incentive Scheme

IV. Distributor Operations
- Designing the Distribution Infrastructure
- Perfect Order Delivery
- Distribution Controls and Management Information Systems

V. Distribution Finance
- Understanding Distribution Finance
- Sourcing, Allocating and Using Funds
- Working Capital and Capital Investment Management

VI. Building Businesses and Brands
- Evaluating Principals and Products
- Beyond Distribution: Co-Brand Building
- Beyond Distribution: Business Value Creation

OTHER CERTIFICATE COURSES FOR JUNE - AUGUST
- Entrepreneurial Operations Management [June 27 - 30, 2006]
- Venture into Entrepreneurship [June - December 2006]

For inquiries and reservation call: Ms. Luvy Villanueva / Ms. Liza Ayalde
Tel +632 892-4011 to 25 ext. 356, 252; Telefax +632 813-3302
Email: ace@aim.edu; lvillanueva@aim.edu; maylde@aim.edu

EQUIS ACCREDITED

Eugenio Lopez Foundation Building, Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City 1260 Philippines
www.aim.edu

Doomed Pinay saved from Saudi beheading

By Volt Contreras
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A FILIPINA CONVICTED of murder in Saudi Arabia has been saved from execution through the intercession of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and the victim's family has accepted part of a total of P28 million in blood money, a special presidential envoy announced yesterday.

Sarah Dematera, 34, had been marked for death by decapitation since Nov. 14, 1993, when a Saudi court found the domestic helper guilty of killing her employer's wife, according to a statement issued by Ambassador Amable Aguiluz, special envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Dematera maintained she was framed in the killing of the woman, which took place at her employers' home four days after she started working in Saudi Arabia in November 1992, the statement said.

The victim's family formally accepted 500,000 Saudi rials (P7 million) as a down payment during a court hearing in Dammam last May 10, the statement said, adding that the equivalent of P2.45 million had been donated by Aguiluz and the rest was contributed by overseas Filipino workers.

Although Aguiluz himself had to negotiate with the victim's family to accept the payment of blood money and set the amount, the statement attributed the sparing of Dematera's life to Ms Arroyo's intercession during her recent visit to Saudi Arabia, where she also obtained pardon for 138 jailed Filipino workers.

The statement said Dematera would be released from prison once the rest of the money is paid, but it did not say where the money would come from.

Meanwhile, nine of the 138 Filipino workers pardoned during Ms Arroyo's visit told the President in a thank-you letter that other foreign workers detained in Saudi Arabia were envious of their good fortune.

"We all clapped while watching you meet with the King and even other foreigners in our detention center also applauded," the workers said in their letter, released by Malacañang yesterday. "When we were told about the King's pardon, an Egyptian detainee and other Indonesian prisoners told us that they wished they were Filipinos so that you can also be their President."

The letter was signed by Rofia U. Saguia, Catherine D. Tonelada, Darwina L. Astare, Rahma U. Sabilla, Lisa P. Martinez, Baida Omar, Saguira M. Unotan, Fedelia F. Rapal, and Melania E. Borje.

"Your visit to Saudi Arabia and friendship with King Abdullah made it possible for our release to take place," the letter said.

"We will do our best to explain to our countrymen the cultural and legal differences that workers leaving for Saudi Arabia must always consider and respect," the letter added.

OIC team here on mission

OFFICIALLY, IT'S CALLED A fact-finding mission. Essentially, it's a two-day "road trip" meant to show the Muslim world how much war-torn lives have improved in Mindanao a decade after the Philippine government struck a peace deal with Moro rebels.

The itinerary includes stops in provincial capitols, a mosque, a Shari'ah court house, a sea port, a hospital, and the shores of Lake Lanao for a ceremonial toss of fingerlings.

Upon Malacañang's invitation, a 16-member delegation from the influential Organization of the Islamic Conference arrived yesterday and will visit several towns and meet local officials in the South, including the old guards of the Moro National Liberation Front.

The team is set to assess the "implementation" of the September 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF, an OIC-backed accord which envisioned autonomy and socioeconomic rehabilitation for Mindanao's Muslim populace.

The observers will basically look at both the physical and political infrastructure, the state of the natural resources, and the status of the various development projects in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao into which billions of dollars in foreign aid or loans have since poured.

"It is a fact-finding mission to evaluate and see on the ground... what was implemented, obstacles impending the implementation, the complaints of the parties involved, how we (OIC) can help to find ways and means to fully implement (it)," said Ambassador Sayed Kassem El-Massry, adviser to the OIC Secretary and head of the mission. *Volt Contreras*

SORENTO
AS LOW AS P14,853/MO.

KC2700
AS LOW AS P8,996/MO. OR P114,750 D/P

picanto
AS LOW AS P5,466/MO. OR P69,000 D/P

KIA

MAKATI
La Fuerza Plaza 2241 Pasong Tamo St., Makati City
Tels.: 817-8416; 817-8417; 817-8406
Telefax: 817-8421

MANDALUYONG
79 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tels.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949; 531-4424
Fax: 531-4380

LAS PINAS
(In Front of SM Southmall)
Tels.: 801-7656; 801-7668; 802-1024; 806-2235
Telefax: 806-2230

SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL

Aplus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Vendetta angle eyed in journalist's slay

Gunmen's identities known to cops

By Luige A. del Puerto and Nancy C. Carvajal

POLICE YESTERDAY SAID THE killing of reporter Albert Orsolino was "not media-related."

Director Vidal Querol, National Capital Region police chief, yesterday said personal vendetta could have have prompted the attack on the 45-year-old tabloid reporter.

"Right now, investigators are outside Metro Manila working on the angle that the killing was not media-related," he said.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Northern Police District director, said they had already identified the gunmen as well as the owner of the motorcycle used by the suspects.

He refused to give details, although a check with the records of the Land Transportation Office showed that the motorcycle was registered to a certain Roberto Enrique of Dasmarinas, Cavite.

Querol added that results of the initial investigation indicated that Orsolino's murder might be an "act of vengeance." It could have something to do with his anti-criminality campaign as a barangay official in Caloocan City, he explained.

Without elaborating, Querol said the murder could be linked to the death of a suspected narcotics peddler in the city.

He added that so far, the police had not found anything to show that Orsolino's death was related to his job as a media man.

"We have not seen that he had targeted someone in his writings, unlike the media killings in the provinces," Querol said.

This was supported by Senior Supt. Geronimo Reside, Caloocan chief of police, and head of the group tasked to look into Orsolino's death.

Reside said the killers could have been motivated by "personal vendetta."

Bataoil said he had ordered his men to watch over Orsolino's family round-the-clock. "The wife expressed fear for her safety and that of their five small children ages two to 10," he added.

Orsolino, a reporter of the tabloid Saksi, was the latest in a growing list of murdered journalists since 1986.

Two men on a motorcycle ambushed him on Tuesday near a gas station on C-4 Road in Kaunlaran Village, Caloocan City. Orsolino was on his way to his Malacañang beat.

A stray bullet wounded bystander Annie Clemente in the right leg during the attack, police said.

The gunmen fled after exchanging gunfire with operatives of the Department of Transportation and Communication who happened to be passing by the area. One of the suspects was reportedly wounded in the firefight, police said.

Bataoil said witnesses had given police a description of the gunmen, who were spotted near the reporter's house before he was killed. "The suspects were seen changing their clothes minutes after the reporter left onboard his car," he added.

Orsolino was a barangay official and president of the Lupa Homeowners Association. He had come from his house in Phase I Lupa, Tonsuya, Malabon, when he was attacked.

The victim was the 78th journalist killed since 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines.

ALBERT Orsolino, who was also a barangay official, was inside this car when he was ambushed by unidentified gunmen near a gasoline station on C4 highway in Caloocan City. ALANAH TORRALBA

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Police nab suspect in killing of Las Piñas barangay captain** /A18

- **Couple killed in Quezon City fire** /A18
- **Single parents in Pasay get added benefits** / A18
- **NCRPO chief Vidal Querol vows to make Metro safe for students** /A18

PAGEANT HOPEFULS
Candidates for this year's Miss Makati strike a pose with Miss Makati 2005 Sherin Ladera (in black). RYAN LIM

Flood control program under way in Metro

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority has launched "Oplan Linis Sapa, Iwas Baha," a two-fold program aimed at preventing or reducing flooding in the metropolis with the start of the rainy season.

"Our flood control operations continue throughout the year, but this time, we will also appeal to residents to stop throwing garbage into waterways because that makes our job doubly difficult," said MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna.

Under the campaign, MMDA personnel will conduct "cleaning and declogging of silt and debris in creeks, inlets and drainage systems" and other waterways from this month until June. At the same time, they will also conduct an information drive to encourage residents to do their part in preventing floods.

The waterways that will be cleaned up by the MMDA flood control crew are the Antipolo Creek and Estero de Pandacan in Manila, Estero de Tripa de Gallina in Pasay City, the San Juan River in Mandaluyong City, the Taguig-Pateros River, and the Navotas River in Malabon City.

They will also clear of garbage the esteros in Moriones, San Lazaro, Tutuban, San Miguel, Sampaloc, Calubcob, Jocson, Paco and Concordia, all in Manila and the Batasan, Dario and San Vicente creeks in Quezon City.

Grenade lobbed at QC school

By DJ Yap

AN UNIDENTIFIED PERSON lobbed a grenade at the Santo Domingo Academy, a private school in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, at about 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

No one was injured although a dog was hit and killed by shrapnel, while a neighbor's car was damaged as a result of the blast, Batasan Police station commander Supt. Julius Abanes said.

Police are looking into a feud among members of the family who owns the school as a possible angle.

Domingo Canero, owner of Santo Domingo Academy who lives inside the compound, told the police he suspects that one of his own children could be behind the incident, adding that he had received an unsigned death threat on May 15.

Legal battle

The Caneros are entangled in a legal and personal battle over ownership of the school, Abanes said.

Because of the squabble, Canero had asked the Department of Education to close down the school, which offers elementary and secondary schooling, but this only angered his children, he added.

Threats had been verbally exchanged between the school owner and his children over the dispute, Abanes said.

Abanes, however, did not identify Canero's children.

Pasig gives chocolate factory 1-month extension

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE PASIG CITY GOVERNMENT yesterday extended for another month the temporary reopening of a chocolate factory owned by Universal Robina Corp. after the factory complied with antipollution regulations.

"We issued them another temporary lifting order for one month. But the factory will still be under close monitoring," City Environment and Natural Resources Office chief Raquel Naciongayo told the INQUIRER.

She said the chocolate factory in Barangay Bagong Ilog had been using "low sulfur fuel" as well as an "automatic anti-pollution device."

The factory in Barangay Bagong Ilog was closed on April 20 following complaints from nearby residents about the unbearable stench emitted by the plant, causing respiratory and skin illnesses.

Company officials had released a statement questioning the closure order, saying it had "no legal basis."

The plant manufactures popular products like Nips Chocolates, Cream-O and Presto Cream.

Seven days later, the company was allowed to reopen temporarily for 15 days subject for assessment.

As the 15-day temporary reopening lapsed the other day, city officials again held a public hearing with the affected residents and URC officials.

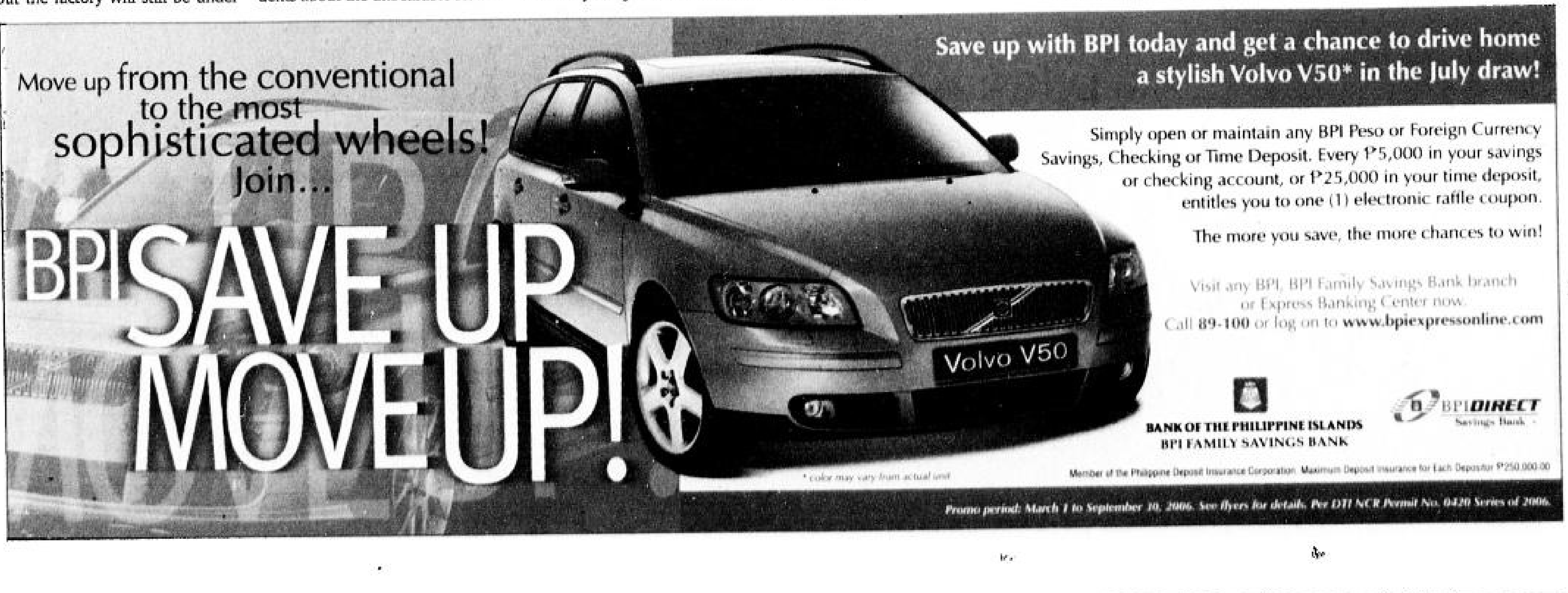
Assessment

The city government finally agreed to allow the company to continue its operations for another month, subject to another round of assessment.

This is not the first time a URC plant in Pasig City was ordered closed for pollution.

In October 2005, the city shut down the company's coffee plant, claiming that the stench had caused dizziness and asthma attacks among residents in Barangay Rosario.

But the coffee plant resumed operations nine days later after complying with the recommendations.



Save up with BPI today and get a chance to drive home a stylish Volvo V50* in the July draw!

Move up from the conventional to the most sophisticated wheels! Join...

BPI SAVE UP MOVE UP!

Simply open or maintain any BPI Peso or Foreign Currency Savings, Checking or Time Deposit. Every P5,000 in your savings or checking account, or P25,000 in your time deposit, entitles you to one (1) electronic raffle coupon.

The more you save, the more chances to win!

Visit any BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank branch or Express Banking Center now. Call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

BPI DIRECT Savings Bank

* color may vary from actual unit

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor P250,000.00

Promo period: March 1 to September 30, 2006. See flyers for details. Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0420 Series of 2006.

Barangay chair shot dead in Las Piñas

By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Luige A. del Puerto

HE WAS JUST A FEW STEPS away from his house, but he never made it home.

Lino de Castro, chair of Barangay Almanza Dos in Las Piñas City, was gunned down by four men in front of his house on Gladiola Street, T.S. Cruz Subdivision, at around 5:45 p.m. Tuesday.

The 44-year-old De Castro suffered at least five gunshot wounds in the face and two on his left chest, said city police chief Supt. Josephus Angan.

One of the suspects, however, was caught by barangay watchmen who rushed to the scene when they heard the gunshots.

Lloyd de la Cruz was charged with murder in the Las Piñas prosecutor's office yesterday.

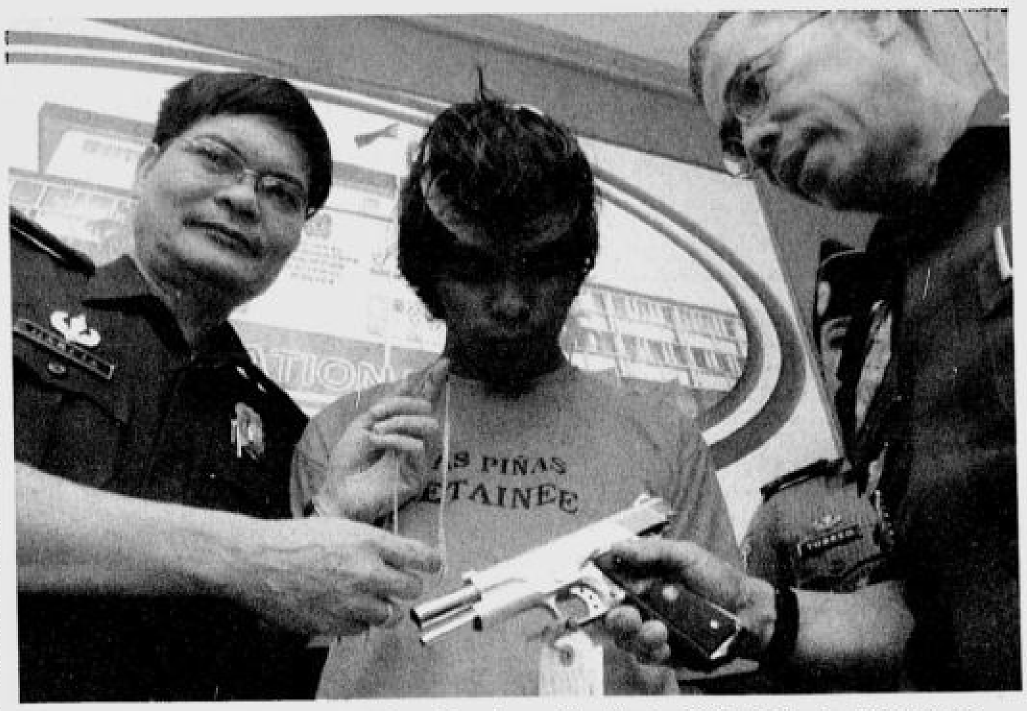
Witnesses told the police that De Castro was talking to someone in front of his house when four men approached him and shot him several times, Angan said.

Hearing the gunfire, the victim's wife, Julita, ran out of the house and saw her husband lying bloodied on the ground.

"But one of the suspects, holding a gun, prevented her from coming close to her husband," Angan told the INQUIRER.

The suspects fled after the incident but watchmen and bystanders chased them and caught De la Cruz. The three others escaped. Recovered from the suspect was the victim's necklace and a .45-cal pistol. Police found seven empty shells and two slugs at the crime scene.

The motive behind the killing has yet to be determined. But Angan said the victim could have offended some people. "As barangay chair, he addressed many problems in his area such as illegal vending and squatting," Angan said. "He had been very active in these campaigns and these are the things that our investigators are looking into," he added.



NCRPO police chief Vidal Querol (right) and Southern police director Wilfredo Garcia with Lloyd dela Cruz, a suspect in the killing of a barangay captain in Las Piñas City. JOAN BONDOC

No crackdown on smelly drivers, but being neat counts

By Tarra V. Quismundo

NOT ONLY WOULD THEY ATtract more customers, they would also look good.

An official of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority yesterday urged owners and operators of public utility vehicles to encourage their drivers to be more conscious of their personal hygiene.

MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said that contrary to newspaper reports, they were not going to crack down on smelly drivers and conductors.

"First of all, how are you going to implement that? Will our enforcers go around and smell drivers and conductors one by one?" he asked.

Responsibility

"That's the responsibility of the operators and owners. They can really enforce good grooming among their drivers and that would even be helpful to their business because who would want to ride in a bus with a driver who stinks?" Vergel De Dios told the INQUIRER.

He issued the clarification following reports that the MMDA had ordered its enforcers to apprehend "unhygienic" drivers.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando had also denied giving such an order.

"All we can do is remind drivers and conductors that they should not have an offensive smell, that they should not have body odor, bad breath or wear dirty clothes. They should at least be presentable because they are engaged in public service," said Vergel de Dios.

He added that having neat employees could even give bus companies and jeepney operators an edge over their competitors.

Vergel de Dios said the agency has long been promoting good grooming among front liners in the transport industry, particularly by imposing a dress code on drivers.

He said drivers and conductors should wear a shirt with a collar and sleeves instead of a *sando*, (sleeveless undershirt), pants instead of shorts, and shoes or sandals in place of slippers.

DRIVERS who look and smell good have an edge over those who don't practice proper hygiene, says the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. REM ZAMORA

NCRPO head vows to make Metro safe for students

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION Police Office Director Vidal Querol said the police force was ready to make the metropolis not only safe for students but also "conducive to learning" when classes open in June.

"We will make their environment conducive to learning. We will remove all distractions as well as everything that will harass them while they are studying," Querol said during the inauguration of the new Marikina City Police Station on Tuesday afternoon.

Apart from going after robbers preying on students, the police will also crack down on the illegal drug trade as well as forms of gambling like video *karera*, he added.

Querol estimated at least "two million" students would be trooping back to schools during the opening of classes.

In eastern Metro Manila, the district police have been meeting with school officials to prepare for the enrollment period.

"We have been meeting with school officials since two weeks ago so we may know the problem areas and deploy the necessary number of policemen," Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino, Eastern Police District director, told the INQUIRER.

He said they would be keeping an eye on at least 72 public and 82 private elementary schools, high schools and colleges in the cities of Marikina, Mandaluyong, Pasig and the town of San Juan.

Police presence

Policemen would also be deployed in areas around schools as well as in terminals and malls in anticipation of mall goers rushing to buy school supplies in the next few days.

"Our Special Weapons and Tactics team is always ready to respond. We also have our District Mobile Force to conduct patrols," Alejandrino added.

Couple dead in QC fire

By DJ Yap

A GARBAGE SCAVENGER AND his wife were killed in a two-hour fire that destroyed their shanty in Quezon City the other night.

The blaze started at around 8:40 p.m. inside the house of Joseph and Teresa Navarra in Sitio Singit, Barangay Bagong Silangan, according to the police, who investigated the case in coordination with fire officials.

Volunteers from the Payatas Fire Brigade were the first to respond to the alarm. But it took them over an hour to put out the flames, said investigator PO3 Diosdado Rocero.The fire was finally put out at 9:45 p.m.

When firefighters went inside the shanty, they discovered the burnt bodies of the Navarra couple, police said.

Neighbors said they had difficulty rousing the Navarras from their sleep to warn them about the fire.

Police said the cause of the fire was still being investigated.

METROBRIEFS

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Additional benefits

TREAT single parents well or you could end up in jail. In a bid to protect the rights of single parents in the city, the council has passed on third and final reading an ordinance ordering business establishments in Pasay City to strictly implement the provisions of Republic Act 8972 or the Solo Parents Welfare Act of 2000. The ordinance, sponsored by Marie Irish Pineda, emphasized two provisions of the law which should be strictly implemented. First, a flexible work schedule must be granted to any single parent employee as long as it does not affect the productivity of the worker and company. Second, any solo parent employee who has rendered at least one year of service must be allowed parental leave of not more than seven days. Violators of the ordinance will be fined P5,000 or face imprisonment of 30 days, or both, depending on the court's discretion.

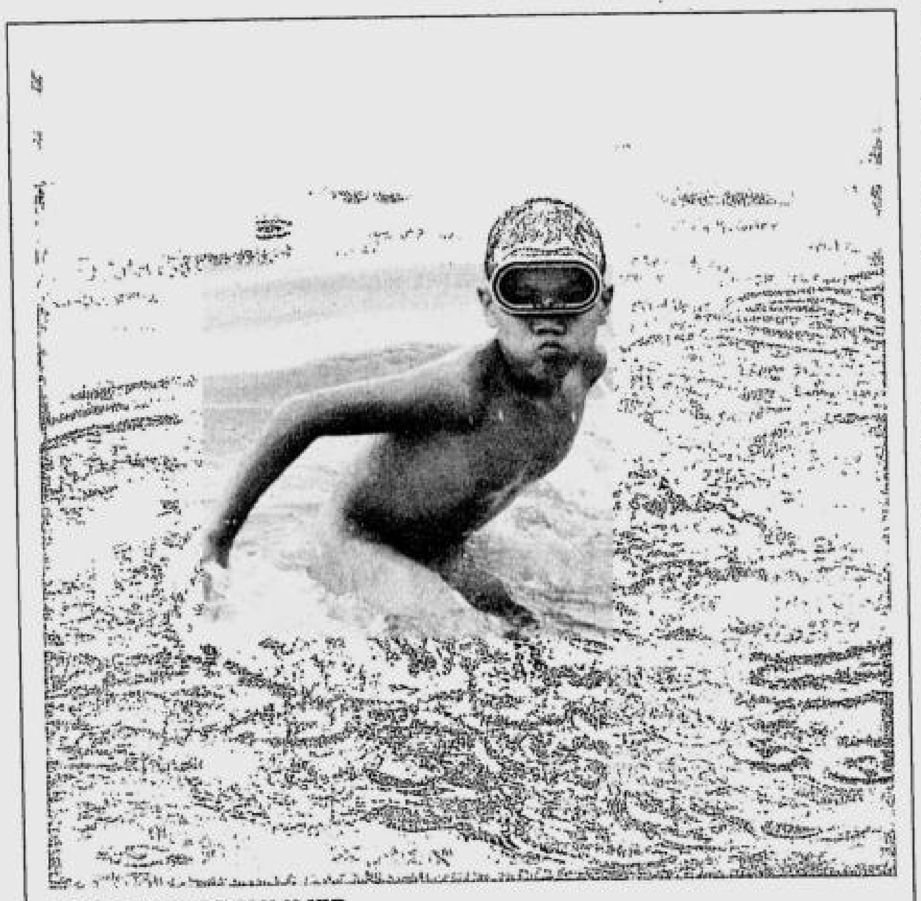
Jocelyn R. Uy

Grand homecoming

THE 1963 HIGH School Class of Jose Abad Santos (Arellano University) will hold its alumni homecoming at 6 p.m., Friday, May 19, at the school complex on Taft Avenue, Pasay City. Dr. Florencio A. Balbido, homecoming president, said members of Class '63 can attend the celebration free or charge. Registration starts at 6 p.m., to be followed by cocktails, program and fellowship. For more information, please contact Cynthia Angeles-Gallo (0917-8661568) and Filipinas "Ching" Zapanta-San Pedro (0917-8953424).

UE reunion

ALL former officers of the University of the East Student Councils who belong to the Kapit-Bisig Party Alliance, its allied organizations and the Alyansa ng Mag-aaral sa Pamantasan ng Silangan (AMPS), are invited to a grand reunion on May 20, 5 p.m. at the Pergola Resto, 89 Malakas Street near corner V. Luna Road, Quezon City. For details, please contact Boy Viloria (0921-9869365, 9201229), RJ Capati (0927-2748788) or e-mail: uekapitbisig@yahoo.com.



LAST DAYS OF SUMMER

A BOY takes an early morning dip in Manila Bay, happy to be outdoors again after days of rains brought about by storm "Caloy." REM ZAMORA

Dad proposes weekend use of parking lots

By DJ Yap

CALLING ALL BUSINESSES THAT CLOSE ON weekends: Please allow the public to use your parking spaces.

Quezon City Councilor Edcel Lagman Jr. is urging establishments that do not operate on Saturdays and Sundays to open their parking areas to the public.

He noted that patrons of restaurants, bars and salons double in number on Saturdays and Sundays, resulting in a shortage of parking spaces.

But establishments like banks that are closed on weekends usually have plenty of room to spare for people looking for a place to park, Lagman said.

For patrons

He urged these businesses to be more accommodating to patrons of adjacent establishments by allowing the use of their parking spaces.

But Lagman pointed out in an interview that compliance would be compulsory, not mandatory.

He said private businesses, by law, still have the right to refuse others from parking on their property.

Leftist murders not easy to solve

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE KILLINGS OF MILITANTS don't have the approval of the government or the military, that's for sure.

Why? Because the government and the military would be the natural suspects in the killings. Who's crazy enough to do something that would be laid at one's doorsteps?

More likely, some murders of political activists were committed by military men out to avenge the ambush-killings of their comrades. These military men probably suspected the victims of conniving with the New People's Army (NPA).

But the killings were not sanctioned by the government or the military establishment.

The other killings of militants might have something to do with the continuing purge in the communist ranks. The victims were probably suspected of spying for the government.

Still another reason for the killings did not have to do with politics, but the settling of personal grudges.

* * *

Police Deputy Director General Avelino Razon, head of Task Force Usig, formed to investigate the killings, will have a hard time at his new job.

Razon could not even solve the murder of Manila police Supt. Manolo Martinez when he was director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

Martinez was gunned down while he was about to enter his precinct in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

If Razon could not crack the Martinéz murder puzzle, how can he solve the killings of political activists which are much more complicated than the Martinez assassination?

* * *

How could the opposition be so stupid as to include the murders of militants in its impeachment complaint that it will soon file before the House of Representatives?

The opposition might as well also include the killings of journalists in the impeachment complaint. After all, doesn't Gloria hate journalists because they have caused all her miseries?

The opposition would be well advised not to waste people's money on trivial things.

* * *

A retired Armed Forces general has allegedly built a mansion inside Westgrove, a millionaires' haven, in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The house is estimated to have cost the retired general from P30 million to P40 million. That excludes the price of the lot which is valued at P7,000 to P9,000 per square meter.

No wonder this general was scrounging for money when he was about to retire, according to my sources in the AFP.

This is the same guy who, while still in the service, projected an image of being clean and honest by disbanding a corrupt unit that supplied arms to the military in the field.

In fact, he was corrupt to the core. My sources said he didn't spare small projects just so he could earn from them. He even allegedly dipped into the fund for the gasoline allowance of his subordinates.

Here's a hint on his identity: He was the most unpopular and reviled general when he retired.

You'll hear more about this retired general in subsequent columns. As they say in Filipino, *abangan*.

* * *

I'm no longer surprised why this retired general is no longer interested in getting an ambassadorial post.

He's afraid of being grilled on his Westgrove mansion and other properties that he reportedly acquired while he was still in the service.

My sources say he's just waiting to get a civilian sinecure that would not require his designation being approved by the Commission on Appointments.

Bush allows Congress probe of domestic spying

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE House, in an abrupt reversal, has agreed to let the full Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees review President George W. Bush's domestic spying program, lawmakers said on Tuesday.

The Republican chairmen of the Senate and House panels disclosed the shift two days before a Senate confirmation hearing for Air Force Gen. Michael Hayden as the new CIA director, which is expected to be dominated by concern over the program.

The chairmen said separately that Bush had agreed to full committee oversight of his Terrorist Surveillance Program rather than the more limited briefings allowed up to now.

The White House, under political pressure, did agree to conduct a set of briefings for the two full committees earlier this year, but those sessions did not disclose operational details about the eavesdropping.

Initiated after the Sept. 11 attacks, the program lets the National Security Agency eavesdrop without a court warrant on international phone calls and e-mails made by US citizens if one party is suspected to have links with terrorism.

It has stirred an outcry among rights groups and lawmakers who believe Bush overstepped his constitutional authority.

The White House has sought to avoid full committee oversight by limiting briefings to subcommittees from each panel. Initially, the administration shared program details only with the chairmen and vice chairmen of the committees and party leaders in the House and Senate.

"It became apparent that in order to have a fully informed confirmation hearing, all members of my committee needed to know the full width and breadth of the president's program," Sen. Pat Roberts of Kansas, who heads the 15-member Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in a statement.

Democrats, who have long pushed for full hearings, said the change would bring the White House into compliance with the National Security Act of 1947, which requires the executive branch to keep Congress informed on intelligence matters.

"The White House, for the first time, is showing signs that they are serious about oversight," said Democrat Sen. John Rockefeller of West Virginia, the Senate panel's vice chairman.

A full Senate committee briefing was scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. Full oversight was expected to replace subcommittee reviews that have been in place since earlier this year, said committee staff members from both chambers.

Hayden, who was the program's architect as NSA director from 1999 to 2005, was expected to face a blizzard of questions on NSA spying at a Thursday confirmation hearing before Roberts' committee. Republicans and Democrats have said Hayden's confirmation would depend on his answers would be. *Reuters*

Suicide bomber kills 7 in Russia

MOSCOW—A SUICIDE BOMBER killed seven people including a top Russian policeman on Wednesday when he drove his car into a police convoy in the southern Russian region of Ingushetia.

Among the dead was Dzhabrail Kostoyev, deputy head of the Ingushetia interior ministry, two of his guards, and four civilians, a police spokesperson said.

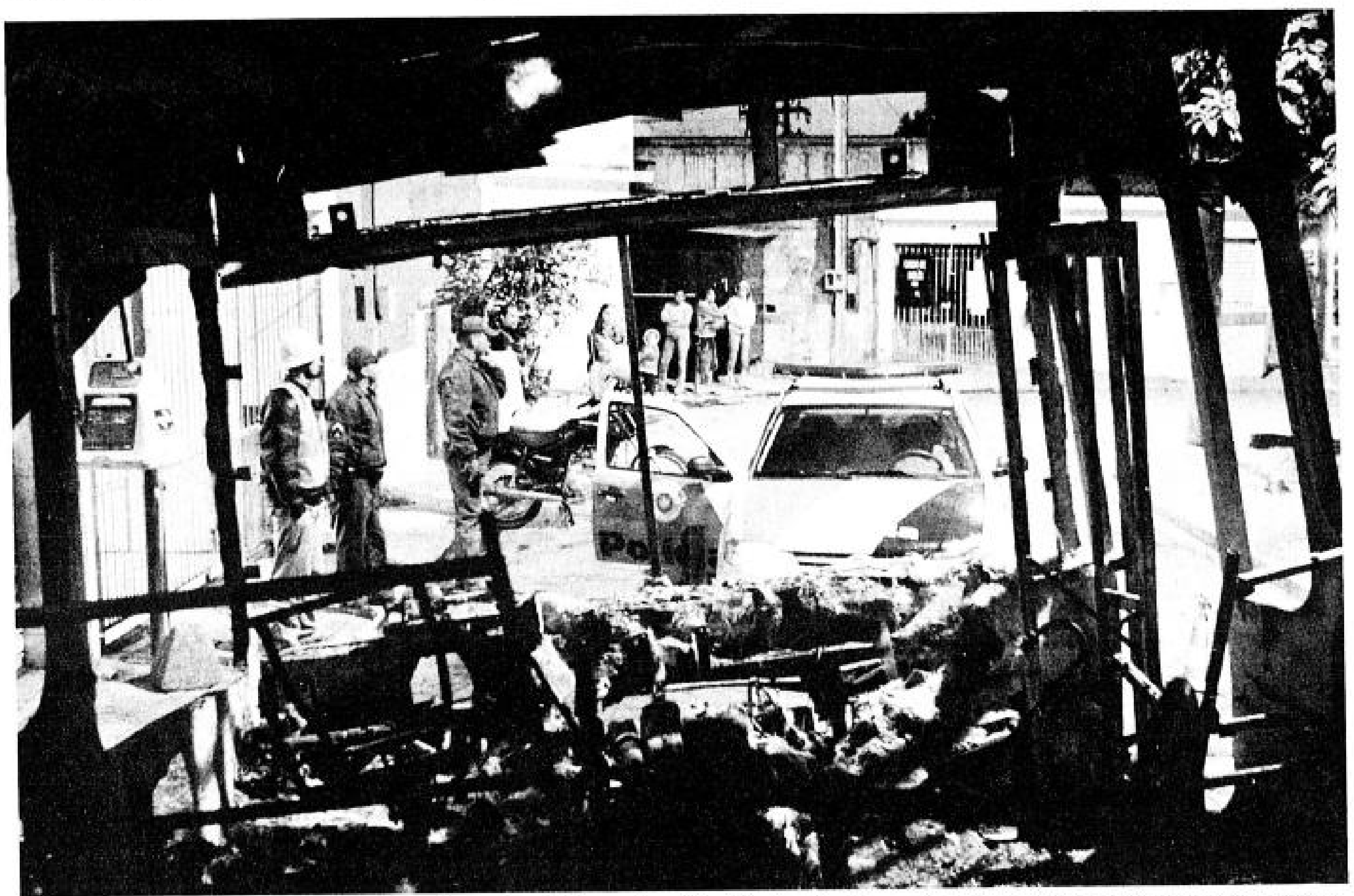
The news came simultaneously with a report from Interfax news agency that unknown gunmen had killed the governor of a detention center in the region of Karachayevo-Cherkessia, further from Chechnya but also increasingly prone to violence.

Rebels have pledged total war against police in the North Caucasus, saying they are collaborating with Russian occupiers.

Islamist websites on Wednesday published comments from a rebel commander in Ingushetia, who pledged such attacks would increase.

"This morning the deputy minister was going to work from the village of Ekazhevo to the town of Nazran. A car containing the suicide bomber drove onto the road from a side-street ... at the moment the convoy was passing," the spokesperson said.

"An investigating group is working at the site to find out the details," he said. *Reuters*



POLICE keep watch near a bus burned down by unidentified attackers May 16 at Jardim Tremembe neighborhood, northern outskirts of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Prison riots and a violent offensive by a powerful gang which has killed 133 has plunged Latin America's largest city into fear. AFP

Sau Paulo police strike back, kill 33 hoods

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—POLICE killed 33 suspected gang members and searched motorists at roadblocks as officers sought to quell a wave of attacks on police stations, courts and buses that had plunged South America's largest city into fear.

While gang attacks fell off sharply Tuesday, the death toll since the violence began Friday soared to 133 as police struck back at the gangs who had rampaged to protest the prison transfer of their leaders.

Officers "acted within the law, but that doesn't mean we have to let them humiliate us," Marco Antonio Desgualdo, a top Sao Paulo state law enforcement official, told reporters. He did not give specifics about the killings.

Authorities said 33 suspected criminals were killed Tuesday, bringing to 71 the number of suspected gang members killed since Friday night, Sao Paulo's state government said in a statement. The statement said 40 police officers and jail guards and four civilians were also killed.

Nine inmates died in the jails administered by the state government's public security agency, said spokesperson Carolina Farias. And nine prisoners died in prisons overseen by the state government's separate penitentiary division, the agency said in a statement. Neither Farias nor penitentiary spokesperson Marcelo Daniel knew how they died.

With guns drawn Tuesday, plainclothes police in a suburb of South America's largest city stopped and frisked motorists in a hunt for more gang members.

The crime spree showed the strength of organized crime in the financial and industrial heart of Brazil, and it sent fear rippling through the metropolis of 18 million. *AP*

India doctors protest caste quota

AHMEDABAD, INDIA—DOCTORS and medical students blocked roads and skipped work across large parts of India on Tuesday as protests spread against a controversial government move to reserve more college seats for lower castes.

Medical care at state-run hospitals in the western state of Gujarat and West Bengal in the east was disrupted, leaving thousands of patients stranded without treatment.

In the national capital New Delhi, students, striking interns and doctors set up makeshift treatment centers in the open. The move was aimed at making sure some patients were treated while underlining the protest, they said.

Despite the protests, the government has said it would go ahead with its move to more than double the proportion of seats reserved for lower castes and tribes.

If the decision becomes law, it will see nearly half the places in top educational institutes reserved for the country's traditionally underprivileged groups.

This has sparked fury among upper caste students, especially medical students, who have to compete fiercely on merit for limited seats in medical, engineering and management schools.

"If the government does not care for us, why should we work for them?" said Keyur Panchal, a pediatrician on strike from work at a government-run hospital in Ahmedebad, Gujarat's main city. *Reuters*

FACE of mummy from the ancient Moche culture. REUTERS

Peru woman of 450 A.D.: Warrior-princess or ruler?

A MUMMY OF MYSTERY HAS come to light in Peru.

She was a woman who died some 1,600 years ago in the heyday of the Moche culture, well before the rise of the Incas. Her imposing tomb suggests someone of high status. Her desiccated remains are covered with red pigment and bear tattoos.

But the most striking aspect of the discovery, archaeologists said Tuesday, is not the offerings of gold and semiprecious stones, or the elaborate wrapping of her body in fine textiles, but the other grave goods.

She was surrounded by weaving materials and needles, befitting a woman, and 2 ceremonial war clubs and 28 spear throwers—sticks that propel spears with far greater force—items never found before in the burial of a woman of the Moche (pronounced MOH-chay).

Was she a warrior princess, or perhaps a ruler?

"She is elite, but somewhat of an enigma," said Dr. John Verano, a physical anthropologist at Tulane University, who worked with the Peruvian archaeologists who made the discovery last year.

Dr. Christopher B. Donnan of the University of California, Los Angeles, was not a member of the research team but inspected the mummy and the tomb soon after the find. "It's among the richest female Moche burials ever found," said Donnan, an archaeologist of Peruvian culture. "The tomb combines things usually found either exclusively in male or female burials—a real mystery."

The National Geographic Society announced the discovery and is publishing details in its magazine's June issue. The excavations, more than 400 miles northwest of Lima, were supported by the Augusto N. Wiese Foundation of Peru.

The Moche culture flourished in the coastal valleys of northern Peru in the first 700 years A.D. The woman's tomb was near the summit of a pyramid called Huaca Cao Viejo, a cathedral of the Moche religion.

Verano's X-ray examination revealed that the mummy was a young adult. Lying near her was the skeleton of another young woman who was apparently sacrificed by strangulation with a hemp rope, which was still around her neck. Such sacrifices were common in Andean cultures. Radiocarbon analysis of the rope indicated that the burial occurred around A.D. 450. *NYT*

Overweight elephant won't try treadmill

By Mary Pemberton

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—SO FAR, it's only the trainers at the Alaska Zoo who seem to be breaking into a sweat.

They've so far made little progress trying to coax Maggie, a somewhat cantankerous African elephant, onto the world's first treadmill for a pachyderm.

For two months, Maggie's trainers have used her favorite treats—watermelon, apples, carrots, peanuts in the shell, banana slices and sweet potatoes—to entice the 8,000-pound (3,600 kilogram) elephant into exercising on the $100,000 (euro78,000) piece of equipment.

"She has two feet on the treadmill and has touched a third one on it," zoo director Pat Lampi said Tuesday. "Every six inches forward is a new goal. There are a lot of steps to go."

Maggie's trainers and zoo staff aren't discouraged.

"It is just a matter of getting that fourth foot up off the concrete floor," said elephant trainer Rob Smith.

Maggie arrived at the zoo in 1983 as a calf when her herd in Kruger National Park in South Africa was culled. She has been alone since Dec. 14, 1997, when the zoo's other elephant died at age 33 of a foot infection.

The treadmill is part of a $1 million (about euro800,000) program the zoo launched two years ago to improve Maggie's life after deciding to keep Alaska's only elephant instead of placing her at another facility, perhaps in a warmer climate, with more elephants.

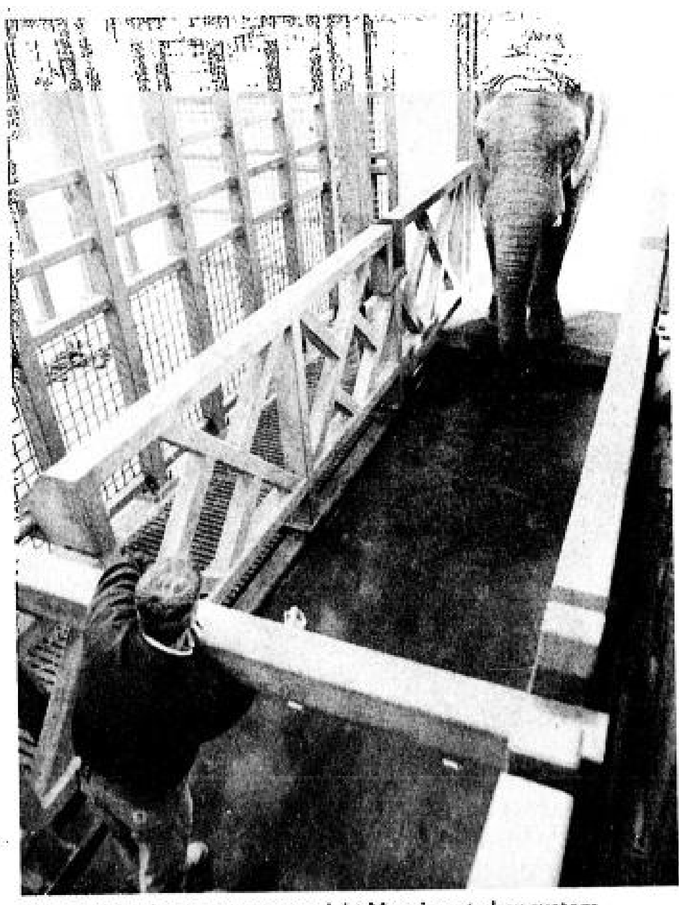
The zoo's program for Maggie included doubling the size of the elephant house and installing new heating, light and ventilation systems, including upgraded radiant heat in the concrete floor. Her outdoor paddock was doubled in size.

Feeding stations were placed high so that she now stretches for her food. Treats are hidden around her enclosure to help keep her busy. She's provided birch logs to strip the bark off.

The extra activity and a diet have helped Maggie shed about 1,000 pounds (500 kilograms). "We think she's at a good weight now. It is just a matter of maintaining that," Lampi said.

The Alaska Zoo is letting Maggie call the shots. Trainers can tell just by looking at her that some days she wants to train. Other days not.

"They learn every day of their lives. They're like people," Smith said. "Just like in school, there were days you didn't want to be in the lecture hall." *AP*



ROB Smith tries to coax overweight Maggie onto her custom treadmill at the Alaska Zoo in Anchorage, May 16. AP

Discovery could help fight 'superbugs'

NEW YORK—RESEARCHERS have found a potentially valuable new antibiotic in a scoop of soil from South Africa.

Using a novel screening technique, scientists from Merck & Co. have found a chemical compound that is effective against germs that have developed resistance to existing antibiotics. The discovery could provide a vital weapon in the ongoing battle against infectious bacteria, which are constantly evolving defenses to the drugs used against them.

"We need to continuously find antibiotics," said Sheo Singh, Merck's director of natural products chemistry.

With the recent emergence of "superbugs" that are resistant to even the most potent antibiotics, there is a very real possibility that in the near future some infections will simply be incurable.

Part of the problem is that most antibiotics are just modifications of drugs that have been around for half a century. Another part of the problem is that despite all the recent advances in genetics and molecular biology, the hunt for new antibiotics is still conducted by trial and error.

The Merck researchers addressed both problems with a clever genetic trick that made an existing drug-hunting process more effective and also targeted novel types of antibiotics.

Their innovation was to test extracts of fungi, plants and other natural substances against bacteria with a genetically engineered Achilles' heel. Because the bacteria were weakened, any compound that harmed them would have a more dramatic effect and thus be easier to identify.

The Merck scientists also chose the genetic handicap carefully, placing it in a metabolic pathway that is not attacked by any major existing antibiotics. That increased the likelihood that any promising compound they discovered would be something for which the bacteria had not yet developed a resistance. *AP*

Iran: No to 'chocolates for gold' offer

Ahmadinejad rejects European incentives, including light-water reactor

TEHRAN—IRAN'S PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHmadinejad on Wednesday rejected a European plan to offer his country incentives, including a light-water nuclear reactor, in return for giving up uranium enrichment.

"Do you think you are dealing with a 4-year-old child to whom you can give some walnuts and chocolates and get gold from him?" Ahmadinejad told thousands of people in central Iran.

European nations have weighed adding a light-water reactor to a package of incentives meant to persuade Tehran to permanently give up uranium enrichment—or face the threat of UN Security Council sanctions.

The United States, Israel and the European Union believe that Iran is using its civilian nuclear program as a cover to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States, Britain and France support taking strong measures against Tehran for violating a UN Security Council demand that Iran halt all enrichment-related activities. Russia and China, the other two veto-wielding powers on the council, oppose sanctions.

Uranium enriched to low levels is used to fuel electricity-generating nuclear power plants. Enriched to more than 90 percent, it becomes suitable for use in weapons.

Senior diplomats and EU government officials said Tuesday that the tentative plans were being discussed among France, Britain and Germany as part of a possible package to be presented to senior representatives of the five permanent UN Security Council members at a meeting in London. All spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the information.

"The Iranian nation won't accept any suspension or end" to its uranium enrichment activities, Ahmadinejad said in a speech broadcast live on state television.

He said Iran trusted the European Union in 2003 and suspended its nuclear activities as a gesture to boost negotiations over its nuclear program, only to have the Europeans eventually demand Iran permanently halt its uranium enrichment program.

The 2003 deal called for guarantees that Iran's nuclear program wouldn't diverge from civilian ends toward producing weapons. Iran agreed to the request, but negotiations collapsed in August 2005 when the Europeans said the best guarantee was for Iran to permanently give up its uranium enrichment program.

Iran responded by resuming uranium reprocessing activities at its uranium conversion facility in Isfahan, central Iran.

It resumed research and uranium enrichment earlier this year after the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, referred Tehran to the UN Security Council. *AP*

US releases film of 9/11 attack on Pentagon

WASHINGTON—THE US GOVernment Tuesday released video clips for the first time showing how a hijacked airliner struck the Pentagon and exploded into a ball of fire on Sept. 11, 2001.

Two security cameras at a Pentagon parking lot caught the moment that American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the south west side of the military headquarters.

Although the two video clips last about two minutes, the nose of the jet is seen for only a fraction of a second in one film before the explosion.

A huge ball of flame rises from the building and black smoke starts gushing out.

The attack, which came shortly after al-Qaida hijackers flew two airliners into the World Trade Center in New York, killed 189 people on the jet and inside the defense department headquarters in the Washington suburbs.

The Pentagon handed the videos over to Judicial Watch, a watchdog group that sued for its release.

The lack of film evidence of the attack had fueled conspiracy theories suggesting that it had been faked or engineered by the Pentagon against itself.

French writer Thierry Meyssan advanced the theory that the attack was a hoax in a 2002 book called "LEffroyable Imposture," or "9/11: The Big Lie." The Pentagon vehemently denounced the book as an "appalling" myth concocted at the expense of the victims' families.

Other conspiracy theories presented as mini-documentaries have circulated since then on the Internet.

The justice department had previously blocked demands for the release of the videos on grounds that it was evidence in the prosecution of al-Qaida plotter Zacarias Moussaoui.

During the Moussaoui trial, prosecutors showed pictures of burning bodies amd human remains as well as images of the explosion triggered by the Pentagon crash.

But with Moussaoui convicted and sentenced to life in prison earlier this month for his role in the Sept. 11 conspiracy, the justice department agreed to the videos' release, officials said. *AFP*

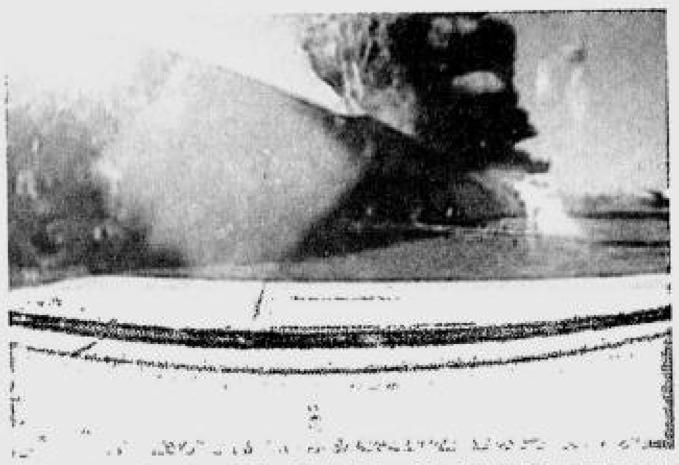


IMAGE shows American Airlines Flight 77 crashing into the Pentagon. REUTERS

Beslan suspect guilty of terrorism

VLADIKAVKAZ, RUSSIA—NURpashi Kulayev, the lone surviving hostage-taker in the 2004 Beslan school massacre, is guilty of committing acts of terrorism and murder, a Russian judge said Tuesday as he began reading the verdict in a landmark trial.

"The court has established that Kulayev took part in an armed attack and a hostage-taking ..., that he committed murder against defenseless people," said Tamerlan Aguzarov, chief justice of the high court in the southern Russian province of North Ossetia.

"He committed an act of terrorism with the aim of influencing the decisions of the authorities," the judge told the court, reading from a text of the verdict.

Under the Russian legal system, the court's assertion that Kulayev, a Chechen man in his mid-20s, had committed the crimes he was charged with was not the same as a formal announcement of conviction of those crimes. But legal experts said it left no doubt that conviction lay ahead.

"He cannot be acquitted," said Taimuraz Chedzhemov, a lawyer representing the families of the victims, who said the formulation of the verdict read by the judge made it clear that the court had no doubt about Kulayev's guilt.

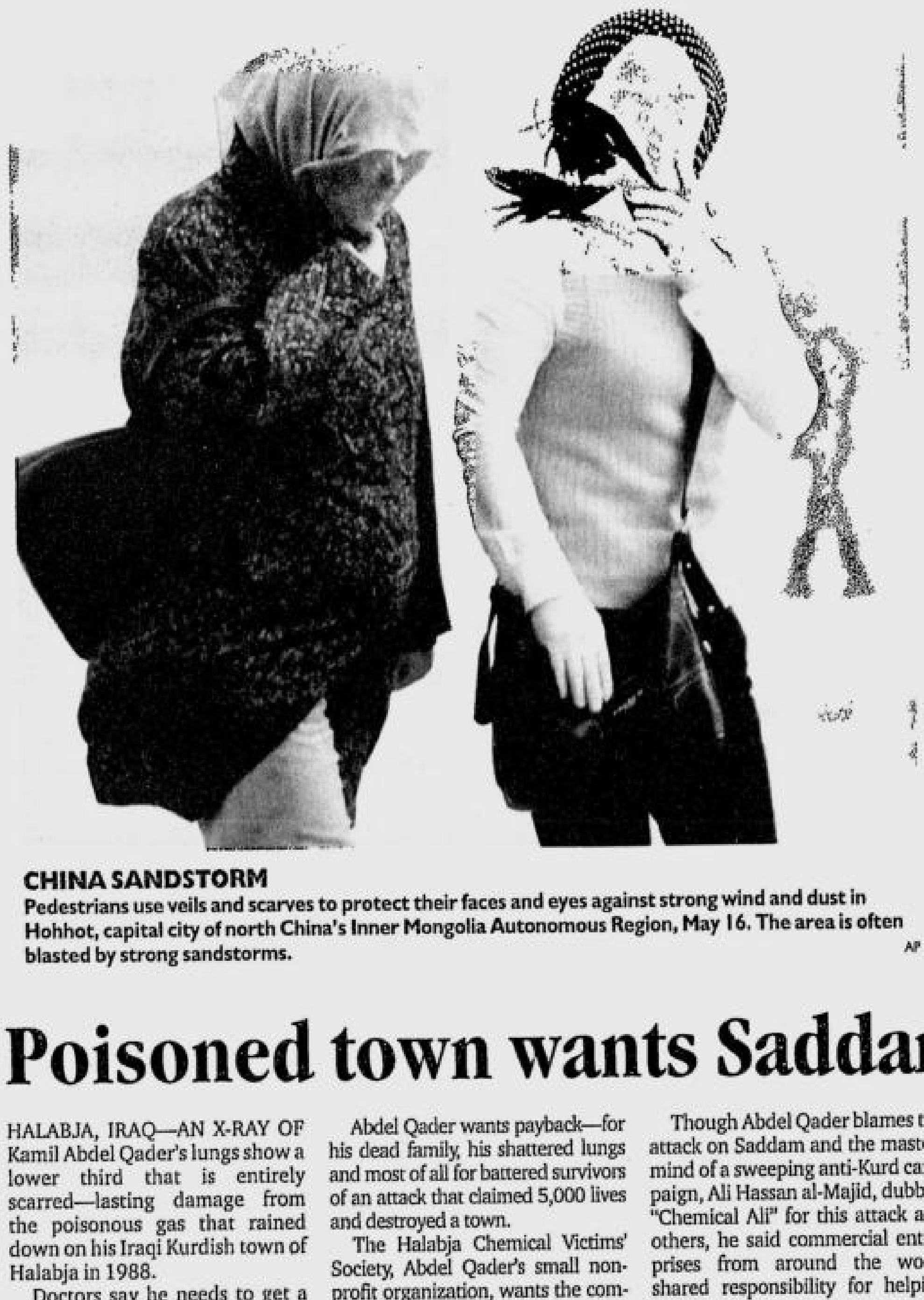
Court officials said the reading of the entire verdict in the trial would take several days.

The state prosecutor in the trial voiced satisfaction at Tuesday's verdict reading.

"The judge confirmed Kulayev's guilt under all eight articles of the indictment," Deputy Prosecutor General Nikolai Shepel was quoted as saying by ITAR-TASS news agency.

The Beslan hostage-takers had demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops from Chechnya, where they have been fighting against separatist rebel forces for most of the past 12 years.

Chechen rebel warlord Shamil Basayev claimed responsibility for the Beslan attack. *AFP*



CHINA SANDSTORM

Pedestrians use veils and scarves to protect their faces and eyes against strong wind and dust in Hohhot, capital city of north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, May 16. The area is often blasted by strong sandstorms. AP

North, South Koreans in Japan reconcile after decades of hostility

TOKYO—KOREANS IN JAPAN loyal to the communist North or the capitalist South announced Wednesday they would work to reconcile after half a century of hostility, mirroring reunification efforts on the Korean peninsula.

Leaders of the rival associations of Korean residents held their first meeting since they were forced to take sides after World War II.

Analysts said the thaw was bowing to reality, as the approximately 700,000 Koreans in Japan integrate and lose their affiliations with their ancestral countries.

Japanese Koreans, the country's largest minority, are mostly descendants of people who immigrated or were enslaved during Tokyo's 1910-1945 occupation of the Korean peninsula.

"Welcome," leaders of the North Korean association Chongryon said as they received the pro-Seoul Mindan group at their headquarters, which serves as Pyongyang's de facto embassy in Tokyo in the absence of diplomatic ties.

After signing a joint statement, Mindan President Ha Byeong-ok and Chongryon chair So Man-sul shook each other's hands twice and then hugged each other.

The two groups said they would start reconciliation efforts with symbolic events, such as jointly celebrating the independence of Koreans from Japanese colonial rule on Aug. 15.

"We confirmed with each other that we will firmly convert our longstanding antagonism and confrontation into reconciliation and harmonization," a joint statement said.

Chongryon and Mindan "hereby declare our will to contribute to our homeland's integration and prosperity in the 21st century," it said.

The two Koreas are moving closer together under the "sunshine policy" launched by former South Korean president and Nobel laureate Kim Dae-jung, who travelled to Pyongyang in 2000 for a historic summit.

But the reconciliation in Japan also reflects declining support for the two groups. Around 10,000 Koreans take Japanese nationality each year, usually through marriage.

However, some 60 Japanese nationalists picketed the Chongryon building, which is closely monitored by Japanese intelligence. They held a banner calling the North a "terrorist state" as the pro-Seoul delegates arrived.

Mindan says it has 500,000 members. Chongryon does not give an official number of its membership, which is believed to have fallen sharply since 2002 when North Korea admitted kidnapping Japanese citizens during the Cold War. *AFP*

LEADERS of pro-Seoul and pro-Pyongyang Korean residents' groups in Japan embrace after agreeing to reconcile. AP

Poisoned town wants Saddam's chemical suppliers to pay

HALABJA, IRAQ—AN X-RAY OF Kamil Abdel Qader's lungs show a lower third that is entirely scarred—lasting damage from the poisonous gas that rained down on his Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabja in 1988.

Doctors say he needs to get a fist-size chunk of tissue removed from his damaged lungs if he is going to survive, but he still considers himself the lucky one.

The rest of his family of eight died as they fled the gas, some dropping before his very eyes as they tried to flee into the hills.

Abdel Qader wants payback—for his dead family, his shattered lungs and most of all for battered survivors of an attack that claimed 5,000 lives and destroyed a town.

The Halabja Chemical Victims' Society, Abdel Qader's small nonprofit organization, wants the companies and governments which helped Saddam Hussein amass his stockpiles to pay compensation.

The funds would go to the few hundred survivors of the attack that came in the waning days of the Iran-Iraq war that raged between 1980 and 1988.

Though Abdel Qader blames the attack on Saddam and the mastermind of a sweeping anti-Kurd campaign, Ali Hassan al-Majid, dubbed "Chemical Ali" for this attack and others, he said commercial enterprises from around the world shared responsibility for helping arm the regime.

"We are trying to find the companies that helped the Iraqi government get chemical weapons for Saddam. We are trying to tell the world what happened here," said an emaciated Abdel Qader as he sat cross-legged on a carpet in his home.

The names of specific firms which sold Iraq the equipment and expertise needed to assemble its chemical arsenal have never been released.

A UN special disarmament commission UNSCOM set up after the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait to investigate Saddam's weapons arsenals protected its sources in order to encourage disclosure.

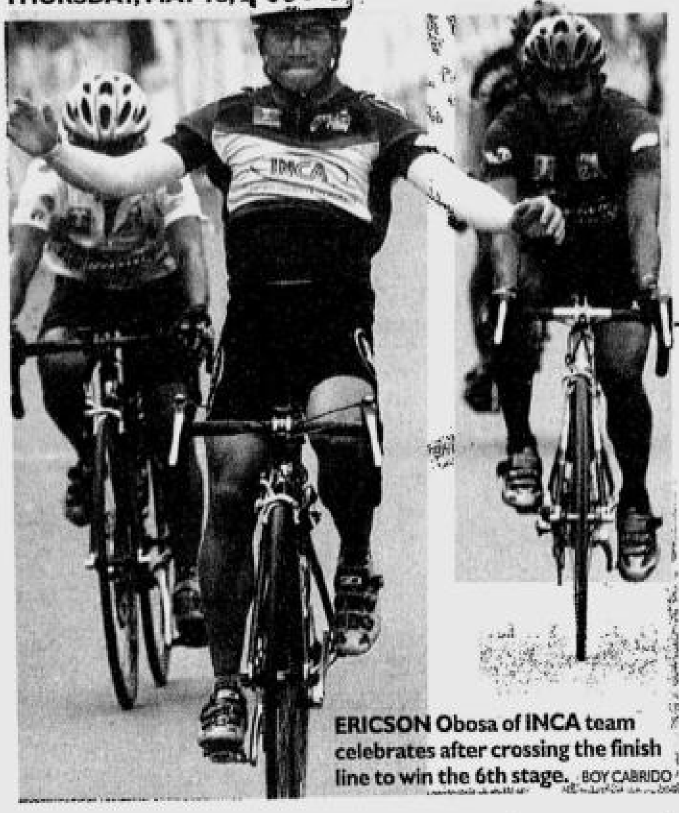
It is believed that just as the US government provided Saddam with intelligence and dual-use technology, such as helicopters, to combat Iran, a long list of Western firms made fortunes exporting chemicals and armaments to Washington's one-time ally.

Abdel Qader has suffered severe health problems for the past 18 years, including chronic bronchitis, severe pulmonary fibrosis and opacity of the left cornea—conditions that doctors said affect a high number of Halabja residents.

Saddam is currently on trial on charges of ordering the killing of 148 Shiite villagers in the mid-1980s, after which he will face charges of genocide for the "Anfal" campaign against the Kurds in which an estimated 100,000 died.

Prosecutors are expected to press charges linked to Halabja in a separate case, but Abdel Qader and other Kurdish activists said the courts should also prosecute those who gave Saddam the tools of his trade.

"Those who are suffering need a lot of money to get treatment in Western hospitals. We want to see those who helped Saddam punished and our rights restored," said Abdel Qader, who needs costly medical treatment abroad. *AFP*



ERICSON Obosa of INCA team celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the 6th stage. BOY CABRIDO

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Santy nears Tour title

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—TIME FOR THE encore.

Except for one fleeting moment, Santy Barnachea made the sixth stage of the Tour Pilipinas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy an uneventful one for his closest pursuer yesterday and set the stage for his date with cycling immortality.

Barnachea clung to the overall lead with determination, sticking to Frederick Feliciano like glue after briefly losing him in "Tatlong Eme" to finish in the first wave of riders that Ericson Obosa towed to the wire.

All that stands in the way of Barnachea is a 147.4-kilometer grind from Tagaytay via Talisay, Batangas, and back today before joining the champion's roll that includes some of the greatest, most illustrious names in the sport.

And, of course, Feliciano.

But it seems that Santy has got it all figured out.

"*Patay kung patay na* (It's all or nothing)," Barnachea said, moments after keeping the overall jersey of leadership over Feliciano and his overnight 4-minute and 7-second advantage over the vaunted mountain climber intact.

Barnachea now has a total time of 25 hours, 29 minutes and 8 seconds with two laps left.

"*Kahit anong pilit niyang kumawala, sinabayan*

SANTY/ A22

Cossack Riders keep team lead

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—COSSACK VODKA inched closer to the team championship of the Tour Pilipinas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy after following a tested game plan to the letter in the sixth lap from Lucena to here.

Rookies Edgardo Ballecer and Michael Reyes finished 3-4 for the day and anchored a strong showing by Cossack, which timed a total of 15 hours, 50 minutes and 44.912 seconds.

Cossack bloated its overall lead to 9 minutes and 31.983 seconds over Team Elixir after Irish Valenzuela, another rookie, brought up the rear of the first group which clocked 3 hours and 57.32 seconds for the 157.20-kilometer stage.

They could have put a fourth rider in the first group had it not been for a mechanical problem that slowed down skipper Renato Sambrano with just over four kilometers left.

Today's seventh lap, a Tagaytay-to-Tagaytay grind spread over 147.4 kilometers, will serve as the final stage of the team event.

Giants nail outright semis slot

GAMES TOMORROW (*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Alaska
7:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Sta. Lucia

By Jasmine W. Payo

THEIR LINEUP DEPLETED, THEIR MORALE at a low, the Purefoods Giants were supposed to be dead meat last night.

Or so everybody thought.

At least, everybody not wearing a Purefoods jersey.

The Giants drew inspiration from an absent teammate, one of many who did not show up due to injuries, and shocked the beefed up Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 72-69, to claim the second outright semifinal seat in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Nobody thought we could win this game but us," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

The Giants were playing their first match since the freakish accident that befell scrappy forward Eugene Tejada and they mustered all they could to notch their 11th win in 15 outings.

"We were inspired by one person and that was Eugene," added Gregorio. Purefoods played with the number 33—Tejada's number—stitched to their jerseys.

The Phone Pals fell to 5-9 after skidding to their fifth straight loss, their longest losing streak since 2001. Talk 'N Text also hasn't won since the blockbuster trade that netted them Renren Ritualo and Don Allado.

Tejada is scheduled to go under the knife today to treat a spinal injury after suffering a bad fall Sunday night in what is dubbed as the worst on-court accident ever to hit the league.

The Giants also played minus key players Kerby Raymundo, Noy Castillo and Jun Limpot.

In the first game, the Coca-Cola Tigers held off the Ginebra Kings, 99-88.

Johnny Abarrientos scored six of his 11 points in the final two minutes to help end the Tigers' five-game losing streak.

"I'm just happy that we got our breakthrough win," said Tigers coach Binky Favis. The Tigers improved to 7-7 while the Kings dropped to 6-7.

The scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 99—Arigo 21, Reavis 14, Peek 14, Miranda 12, Abarrientos 11, Antonio 9, Mamaril 8, Wainwright 7, Francisco 3, Capati 0.

GINEBRA 88—Helterbrand 33, Caguioa 13, Menk 11, Holper 5, Salangsang 4, Salvacion 3, Ramos 2, Ferreria 2, Sotto 2, Dimaunahan 2.

Quarters: 25-21, 50-40, 77-62, 99-88

Second Game

PUREFOODS 72—J. Yap 24, Simon 11, Evangelista 11, Pingris 8, Yee 8, R. Yap 5, Artadi 3, Gamboa 2, Billones 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 69—Taulava 14, Ritualo 14, Washington 11, Cardona 9, Alapag 8, Pablo 5, Allado 3, Belano 3, Carey 2, Juinio 0, Fran 0.

Quarters: 13-18, 32-32, 56-53, 72-69

Get lots of Sun this summer!

Nokia 1600
FREE @ Plan 350
- High-resolution color display
- Polyphonic hands-free speaker
- Write-now Text-later feature
- Speaking alarm and clock

Nokia 3120
NOW FREE @ Plan 350*
- Tri-Band, GPRS, MMS, JAVA-capable
- Speakerphone
- Rhythmic Backlight Alerts
- Colored

HOT PHONE!

Nokia 6020
NOW FREE @ Plan 600*
- Integrated VGA Camera
- MMS, GPRS, Email, Chat, JAVA-capable
- Camcorder for clips up to 50 seconds

Sony Ericsson K300i
FREE @ Plan 600
- Camera
- Video and Sound Recorder
- MP3 Player
- MMS, Email
- Infrared, WAP, JAVA-capable

Samsung X660
FREE @ Plan 1000
- Tri-band
- Video Messaging and Recording
- VGA Camera with Digital Zoom
- MMS, Infrared, JAVA-capable

Sony Ericsson W550i
FREE @ Plan 2000
- Stereo-Widening, Mega Bass
- 1.3 Megapixel Camera with 4x Digital Zoom
- Game Buttons with Premium In-ear Buds

Samsung E350
FREE @ Plan 2000
- VGA Camera
- MMS, Email, WAP, JAVA-capable
- MP3 Player
- MPEG4 Video Recording

02 XDA II Mini
FREE @ Plan 3500
- Integrated Personal Digital Organizer & Mobile Phone
- MP3 Media Player
- Built-in Bluetooth
- 1.3 Megapixel Camera

Hurry to The Sun Shop nearest you!

Enjoy these benefits when you get a Sun Cellular postpaid line:
- IDD Top Ten - US 10¢/min starting on the first minute to the Top 10 destinations! U.S. (Mainland), China, Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Guam, Macau. Simply call 200 or visit The Sun Shop to enroll.
- Roaming service available with 150 operators in more than 80 destinations! Simply call 202 (Roaming Hotline) to activate.
- Unlimited chatting with Sun iMessenger! Text SUNIM to 2746.

Sun iMessenger

10¢ per minute IDD Top 10

24/7 Text Unlimited

Handset	Plan 350	Plan 600	Plan 1000	Plan 2000	Plan 3500
Nokia 3120*	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 1600	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson K300i	2,750	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 6020*	4,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Samsung X660	3,900	1,000	FREE	FREE	FREE
Samsung E350	7,400	5,000	1,750	FREE	FREE
Sony Ericsson W550i	12,700	10,350	7,000	FREE	FREE
02 XDA II Mini	31,000	26,000	21,000	6,000	FREE

*30 month holding period.

When applying for your postpaid line, bring a valid I.D. and your latest competitor bill. If competitor bill is not available, bring Proof of Billing and Proof of Income.

The Sun Shops: **Metro Manila** | Robinsons Galleria | SM North Edsa | SM Megamall | SM Manila | Robinsons Manila | Park Square One | Robinsons Metro East | SM Fairview | SM Centerpoint | SM San Lazaro | SM Valenzuela Greenhills | Shangri-la Plaza | Robinsons Cainta | Robinsons Place Pioneer | **North Luzon** | Robinsons Starmills | SM Marilao | SM Baguio | Robinsons Angeles | **South Luzon** | Robinsons Sta. Rosa | Robinsons Imus Robinsons Dasmariñas | Robinsons Lipa | SM Bacoor | SM Molino | SM Southmall | Filinvest Festival Mall | SM Bicutan | SM Lucena | **Visayas** | Robinsons Iloilo | Robinsons Cebu | Robinsons Bacolod | SM Cebu | Ayala Center Cebu **Mindanao** | SM Davao | Gaisano Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro

SUN CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

NCAA names Jun B commissioner

BERNARDINO

INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERIENCE are what Emilio "Jun" Bernardino Jr. will bring as he assumes the position of basketball commissioner of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The former Philippine Basketball Association commissioner was officially named during a joint meeting by the NCAA Policy Board and Management Committee yesterday at the St. Benilde Hotel in Manila.

Bernardino is no doubt the right man for the job as the NCAA celebrates its 82nd season to be hosted by College of St. Benilde with his vast experience and knowledge in basketball, highlighted by his stint in Asia's first play-for-pay loop.

The former University of the Philippines Maroon was named PBA commissioner in 1994. He stepped down after the 2002 season due to a heart ailment.

"It is my pleasure to serve the NCAA for the 82nd season. Considering what basketball has given me, in terms of where I am now, I think it is (but) natural that I give back what I have received throughout the years," said Bernardino.

The NCAA men's basketball tournament starts June 24 at the Araneta Coliseum, with the Letran Knights shooting for back-to-back titles.

After playing for the Maroons, Bernardino joined Tefilin in 1979 as an assistant coach to Fely Fajardo for two PBA seasons. When the club disbanded in 1981, he turned to broadcasting.

In July that year, Bernardino joined the league as executive secretary. He went on to become executive director then deputy commissioner and finally, commissioner—the youngest to be appointed at the age of 46.

Iligan hands Bacchus 2nd straight loss

ILIGAN CITY—MAYOR LAWRENCE CRUZ'S ILIgan Crusaders dealt Bacchus/Harbour Centre-Manila its second straight loss with a masterful 85-70 victory Tuesday in the 2005 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the packed MSU-IIT gym here.

Last year's MVP Christian Nicdao played his best game so far to lead the Firefly Lightings-backed Crusaders to their seventh win in 10 games with 25 points on an eye-popping 11-of-13 shooting plus 11 rebounds.

After dealing defending champion Ozamiz Cotta its first loss in the southern division, the Manileños of businessman Mikee Romero and coach Lawrence Chongson sputtered in the fourth quarter and ended their southern swing with their fourth defeat in 10 games.

Nicdao scored 11 of his points in the payoff period, which saw Ozamiz overcome a 59-61 deficit to pull away and remain behind southern division leader Ozamiz.

The scores:

ILIGAN 85—Nicdao 25, Omiping 15, Matias 14, Go 9, Kalaw 9, Ayodele 5, Sagad 4, Hubalde 2, Tajonera 2, Gandarosa 0, Taguines 0, Baguio 0.

BACCHUS/HARBOUR 70—Sta. Cruz 15, Hardin 11, Pribdhas 11, Membrere 10, Jay Cuevas 9, Coyukang 5, Retaga 4, Reyes 3, Jun Cuevas 2, Masbang 0.

Quarters: 23-20, 41-40, 59-61, 85-70.

NBC selections playing abroad

THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) has been invited to play in two international tournaments—one in Taiwan and the other in Thailand.

Hua Lien Probation Association president Lin Yo-Chih invited NBC, through president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, to compete in the Hua Lien Probation Basketball Championship on May 25-28 in Hua Lien, Taiwan.

The NBC Selection has also been requested to defend its title in the Crown Prince's Cup tournament on June 26-July 2 in Hatyai, Songkha, Thailand.

"We're honored to be invited to these two international events," said Padilla. "We'll definitely do our best to bring honors to the country."

The NBC board has decided to send a selection of the best players in the northern division to play in Hua Lien. The best cagers in the southern division will carry NBC's colors in Thailand.

"We're looking forward to show our Asian neighbors that we're still a power to reckon with in the region," said NBC executive vice president and Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino.

Spinners try to take heat out of Sparks

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT SEEMED THE MAGNOLIA SPINNERS HAVE TO RELEARN EVERYthing in the PBL Unity Cup.

Considered a shoo-in in the title series when the tournament started, coach Koy Banal had to challenge the Spinners "to figure out how to win" to stay in the running.

Relief came for Banal when the Spinners scored their first back-to-back victories last week that boosted their campaign for the second twice-to-beat quarterfinal incentive.

But the Spinners must dispose the overachieving Toyota Otis Sparks at 2 p.m. today to sustain their bid.

Already semifinal-bound, Toyota Otis will be playing pressure-free like the Montaña Pawnshop, which will tackle Hapee-PCU in the second game at 4 p.m. at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

Granny Goose already claimed the first twice-to-beat edge in the quarterfinals after finishing the elimination round at third place.

Banal said Magnolia, which is contesting the remaining quarterfinal incentive versus Rain or Shine, has to end its inconsistent run.

"That is the hump we have to overcome," said Banal

Sparks coach Louie Alas, however, feels the Spinners will always be tough to figure out.

Toyota Otis has only beaten Magnolia once in 10 matches since joining the league two years ago.

Meanwhile, the Jewels will be gunning for a sweep over Hapee-PCU after winning their first encounter, 90-81, in overtime.

Ken Bono will be coming off a near-perfect performance—shooting 7-of-8 from the field—to finish with 15 points against Toyota Otis last Saturday.

Hapee-PCU dropped out of the quarterfinal race after absorbing its sixth straight loss versus Magnolia.

GAMES TODAY
(Olivarez Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Magnolia vs Toyota Otis
4 p.m.—Montaña vs Hapee-PCU

A PNP Special Action Force member pours water at the main pack of riders cycling along the national highway in Lucena City. BOY CABRIDO

Santy nears Tour title

From page A-21

ko talaga (I stuck to him no matter how hard he tried)," Barnachea said, referring to Feliciano. "*Siya na lang talaga ang natitirang kalaban* (He's the only one who can beat me now)."

The winner of the "killer" San Fernando to Baguio third stage on Sunday, Feliciano tried to mount a breakaway when the pack hit the "Tatlong Eme" climb in Pagbilao, Quezon.

He built a lead of more than a minute over the fourth group which the 30-year-old Barnachea towed, but soon found the four-day overall leader keeping him company in the flat roads of Candelaria town.

The frontrunners expect the final lap—a 75-km criterium race around Marikina tomorrow—to be just a formality.

"Same time *na kami matatapos lahat dun* (We will all have the same time in that lap)," said Obosa, who pocketed his second stage win by topping the 157.2-km lap yesterday in 3 hours, 57 minutes and 32 seconds.

Obosa, who ruled the opening stage from Quezon City to Cabanatuan on Friday, stayed in third, 7 minutes and 13 seconds behind, followed by rookie Irish Valenzuela and Tomas Martinez who trailed by 8:42 and 10:14, respectively.

It seems that the only thing that can prevent Barnachea from winning this Tour is a major accident or equipment malfunction since the stage today does not offer that hard a challenge to the field.

The "Sungay Road" in Talisay, Batangas, is just a 9-km stretch of road with a 40-degree incline. But all things being equal, Barnachea's 4:07 lead seems impregnable.

Warren Davadilla, stayed in seventh spot, still 13:24 behind Barnachea and 10 seconds off the sixth-placed Renato Sambrano.

Rookie Harvey Sicam, third after the first two stages, stood in eighth spot, 13:45 adrift, with Arnel Quirimit, the 2003 champ when the Tour was revived, and Reinhard Gorrantes rounding out the Top 10.

STAGE 6 RESULTS

Individual
1. E. Obosa (Inca), 3:57:32
2. W. Davadilla (Mall & More), same time
3. E. Ballezer* (Cossack Vodka), same time
4. M. Reyes (Cossack Vodka), same time
5. B. Sepmo* (Air21), same time
6. H. Mangahis (Sunbolt), same time
7. J. Guevarra* (Go21), same time
8. F. Feliciano (Air21), same time
9. J. Ricafort (Elixir Sports), same time
10. S. Barnachea (Sunbolt), same time
11. D. Marana (Mall & More), same time
12. O. Rendole (Inca), same time
13. T. Martinez (Red Bull), same time
14. I. Valenzuela* (Cossack Vodka), same time
15. P. Calosa* (One Shot Wonder), 3:58:15

Overall Individual
1. S. Barnachea (Sunbolt), 25:29:08
2. F. Feliciano(Air21), 25:33:15
3. E. Obosa (Inca), 25:36:22
4. I. Valenzuela* (Cossack Vodka), 25:37:50
5. T. Martinez (Red Bull), 25:39:22
6. R. Sambrano (Cossack Vodka), 25:42:22
7. W. Davadilla (Mall & More), 25:42:32
8. H. Sicam* (Elixir Sports), 25:42:54
9. A. Quirimit (Elixir Sports), 25:46:06
10. R. Gorantes (Go21), 25:52:15

Cebu-dribblers down Mantawi

GAME TODAY
(Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Complex)
5:30 p.m.—Mantawi vs Cebu Landmaster-Toledo

TOLEDO CITY—HOST CEBU LANDMASTER-Toledo smashed the visiting Mantawi Traders, 76-62, to begin the Visayas Division Semifinal Round of the ML Kwarta Padala Mindanao Visayas Basketball Association (MVBA) First Conference at the Marcelo Barba Sports Center Tuesday night.

Guard Alex Cainglet connected on back-to-back triples in the first quarter to give the Landmaster quintet of realtor Joe Soberano and Coach Jun Tan the lead for good, 8-4. From there it was an all-Landmaster show as center Rex Mangubat and swingman Ronald Paraiso combined for 19 points in the second quarter to peg the halftime count at 43-18.

Mantawi top gun Doroteo Almacin scored 15 points, all in the second half. Randy Sevilla added 12 and guard Kim Calo 10 for the Traders of Mayor Thadeo Ouano.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Maricor's Charm (2), Princess Loighla (4), Suplada (5), Tiger Lewis (7)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Society Climber (5), Ocean Dignity (4), Diamond Sky (6), Island King (7), Lucky Fil (10)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Ruah (2), Earl Gray/Tres Jeune (6), Arctic Desert (1), Lord Of All (3)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Real Tough (3), Odyssey (2), Luck of the Irish (1), Raven (4), Andorra (8)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Don King (11), Uncle (2), Red Storm (4), Makati Haven (7), Step on the Gas (10)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Common Goal (9), Beat D'Heat (1), St. Jok Jok (5), Speed Lord (2), Fair Urduja (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Dixie The Younger (4), Paminsanminsan (5), Crystal City (6), Full Of Fury (1), Please Don't Stop (12)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Ferrari-one/Modern Classic (11), Wrecking Ball (12), Mano Po (6), West 'N Wild (10), Olei Olei Olei (1), Sincerity,(7)

Adamson too powerful for UE spikers

ENGLAND's Theo Walcott (third from left) takes part in a fitness test with teammates during an England squad pre-World Cup soccer training session at Vale Do Lobo, Algarve, Portugal. REUTERS

GAMES SATURDAY *(Blue Eagle Gym)*
4 p.m.—SSC vs UE
6 p.m.—PCU vs Lyceum

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ADAMSON UNLEASHED THE FULL EXTENT OF its volleyball power against hapless University of the East, 25-20, 25-9, 25-19, last night to improve the record it will carry into the next round of the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Already in the semifinals and battling a winless foe, the Lady Falcons refused to hold their punches and pounded the Lady Warriors mercilessly to post their fifth win in six games.

The Lady Warriors , who fell to 0-6, never got going although they were able to pile up points in the latter part of the first and third sets when the Lady Falcons experimented with new combinations.

National team mainstay Cherry Rose Macatangay led Adamson's attack as expected, scoring 14 outright winners to finish with 20 points while Rissa Jane Laguilles added eight kills out of her nine points.

But the Lady Falcons got a big scare when pretty libero Donna Leil Adajar hurt her elbow while diving for a save and colliding with team captain Kristine Ann Dave in the second set. She bruised her right elbow in the process.

Adamson coach Minerva Pante said the injury was "nothing serious" and that the 5-foot defense specialist would be ready to play in the carry-over semis which starts next week.

Rubie de Leon, one of the Adamson guest players, contributed 10 points, including two blocks to assist Macatangay at the net. The 5-foot-11 Macatangay finished with three blocks.

QCHS, St. Joseph bets gain q'finals

QUEZON CITY HIGH SCHOOL RALlied to beat University of Perpetual Laguna, 7-25, 25-20, 25-21, in the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League at the Ateneo Blue Eagle Gym.

Fresh from the recent Naga Palarong Pambansa, the trio of Mary Rose Cabanag, Girlie Quemada and Mikaela Morada combined for 16 kills and 6 blocks as against 12 kills and 4 blocks by Jennelyn Belen, Jessica Curato and Sarah Jane Gonzales of UPHL..

With the win, QCHS is now solo leader in Bracket B with a 3-0 slate and is assured of a berth in the quarterfinals.

In other matches, St. Joseph College beat UP Integrated School in straight sets 25-17, 25-9. Diliman Preparatory School dealt Imus Institute its second loss 25-17, 25-15.

University of Perpetual Help Molino defeated Grace Christian School in 25-14, 21-25, 25-17.

In Bracket D, University of the East, the reigning UAAP junior division champion, is likewise assured of a berth with a 4-0 slate having won its match against Mater Ecclesiae 25-13, 25-5.

Hope Christian School hopes to win on Thursday when they play Prenza Nat'l High School to sweep Bracket A unto the quarter-finals.

The Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League is supported by Dunkin Donuts, Toby's Sports, Mikasa, the Official Volleyball, Asics and Air Philippines.

Six matches are scheduled tomorrow at the Ateneo gym.

Parica keeps clean record

PARICA

FILIPINO VETERan Jose "Amang" Parica nipped American Mike Davis, 11-10, yesterday to post his third straight win and remain unscathed in the 2006 Enjoypool.com 9-Ball Championship at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Parica, who led the Filipino billiards invasion in the US in the mid-80s, earlier trounced American Nick Varner, 11-8, and Canadian No.2 Luc Salvas, 11-6.

He will next face former world champion Johnny Archer of the US.

Earlier, Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat suffered his first loss at the hands of ex-US Open titlist American Corey Deuel, 11-7, to join fellow Filipino Santos Sambajon in the loser's bracket.

Sambajon beat Joey Korsiak, 11-7, but bowed to Nicolas Guimond, 11-5, in the second round. He will face David Reljik in the loser's side.

Efren "Bata" Reyes and Dennis "Surigao" Orcollo are battling each other in the third round.

Marlon Bernardino

RAFFLE WINNER. Rado raffles off its top of the line watch, the V10K, which was won by Ryan Cruz (center) during the recent Bill Shaw tilt. With Cruz are Archie Lacson and Wack Wack sports and games chair Pablo Soon.

Magallanes, Camacho ahead

FAVORITES LED BY REY JOMAR Magallanes of the University of the East posted perfect scores of two points Tuesday along with 25 other seeded players in the 2006 National Juniors elimination being held at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City.

Also with two points were Ivan Gil Biag of UP, Froilan Bolico III of FEU, Catrihino Pestaño, Jimsoon Bitoon of Cebu, Anselmo Mercado Jr., Marvin Ting from Negros and Bryan Jose of MIT. In the distaff side, 12-year old Cheradee Camacho of La Union led with two points along with 26 others. Tied with her were Jan Jodilyn Fronda, Jedara Docena, Rulp Ylem Jose, Geneline De Ramos, Eden Tumbos, Gina Edaniol, Cheyzer Mendoza and Jayveelyn Fronda.

NCFP president Rep. Prospero "Buth" Pichay and secretary-general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino made the ceremonial moves last Monday. The nine-round Swiss event, which lured 452 players, is being supported by ON-LINE MedEx with C.H.I.P.S by ON-LINE Care Corp., St. Francis Square, Milo, Living Colours Digital Ads & Prints and PSC.

Meanwhile, the elimination for the age-group will be on May 21-25 also at the same venue.

Long shots Yee, Villa gain NTCC semis slots

EDMUND Yee: Surprise survivor

MATCHES TODAY (8 a.m.)
Ladies' semifinals: Cyna Rodriguez (Riviera) vs Vinice Godio (Sta. Elena/Alabang), Kwon Ye Seul (Eagle Ridge) vs Kathleen Uy (Cebu)
Men's semifinals: Zaldy Villa (Valley) vs. Tootsie de Jesus (Tagaytay Highlands), Edmund Yee (Manila Southwoods) vs Park Jong Soo (Eastridge)

By Jong Arcano

GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—THEY CRAMMED for practice together at the four Eagle Ridge courses they hardly knew. Aside from their lack of knowledge of the venues, Edmund Yee and Zaldy Villa felt they were too old to have a chance against the young ones in the National Tournament of Club Champions here.

Three days into the tourney presented by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp and INQUIRER Golf, most of the top seeds are gone but the two businessmen in their late 40s are still very much alive.

Southwoods bet Yee, owner of a car distribution franchise, and Valley's Villa, who operates a metal fabrication firm, posted 1 up victories against separate rivals yesterday to reach the semifinals at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

KATHLEEN Uy

After ousting young Miko Yee of Riviera in the round of 16, Villa enhanced his giant-killer tag by eliminating top seed Venjo Reyes of Manila Golf while Yee re-asserted his mastery of Indren Naidoo of Alabang in pulsating matches.

In today's Final Four, Yee faces Jong Soo Park, the man who beat him in a duel for the Eastridge title, and Villa squares off with Tootsie de Jesus of Tagaytay Highlands. Park defeated Jan Coup Tambogon of Eagle Ridge, 2&1, and de Jesus squeaked past Oliver Gan of Tagaytay Midlands, 1 up.

In the ladies division, junior players Cyna Rodriguez of Riviera and Kwon Ye Seul moved closer to an expected showdown for the crown by ripping their opponents.

Rodriguez, 14, clipped Maan Legaspi, 4&3, to forge a semis duel with Vinice Godio while Kwon, 15, was merciless in a 6&4 stoppage of Beachie Abiera (Southwoods/Tagaytay Midlands).

Godio, who represents Sta. Elena and Alabang, scored a 2&1 decision over Matet Salivio to earn another trip to the semis. Kwon tackles Kathleen Uy, a 5&4 winner over Lyn Mangulabnan.

Sponsors of the NTCC are Sta. Lucia Realty, Callaway as the official apparel, Isuzu the official vehicle, Titleist the official ball, PAL the official carrier, Chivas Regal, The Travel CLub and Pacific Air Media. Platonic, the first locally assembled golf cart, is hole-in-one sponsor.

Park, Gabasa lead winners

JONG SOO PARK OF EASTRIDGE DISplayed brute strength and 11-year-old Irina Gabasa holed a long 40-foot putt to lead the winners in the Isuzu Skills Challenge of the National Tournament of Club Champions at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

The lanky Park, son of a Korean business executive, hit a 319-yard drive to rule the longest drive competition while pint-sized Gabasa, representing Alta Vista, won the putting contest.

Edmund Yee of Manila Southwoods, Rodel Mangulabnan and Tootsie de Jesus took the other awards in the men's division while Vinice Godio, Matet Salivio and Maan Legaspi were the other prize winners in the distaff side.

Yee topped the bunker competition, De Jesus the pitching contest and Mangulabnan the putting event.

Godio was closest to the pin while Legaspi hit the best bunker shot. Winners received P3,000 worth of gift certificates and Isuzu golf items .

Echavez surges to 3-stroke lead

PAUL ECHAVEZ RODE ON A FIERY START TO fire a solid three-under par 69 yesterday and surge ahead by three strokes over Jun Bernis halfway through the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour at the Summit Point and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas, yesterday.

Echavez, one of the recipients of the National Caddies Open program, birdied Nos. 6, 8 and 9 to seize control then held on to his lead with a two-birdie, two-bogey stint at the back for a 33-36 card.

Counting his even par round on the first day, the 17-year-old Echavez from Apo posted a 36-hole total of 141 going into the final two rounds of this event serving as the second leg of a five-stage series backed by Samsung.

Bernis padded his overnight one-shot lead to two with a birdie on No. 2, but the Canlubang bet couldn't match Echavez's run.

Gary Sales moved one rung up to No. 3 with a 74 but fell behind by seven with a 148 while former champion Kim Chang Hoi carded a 73 to tie Ronnie Torrecampo, who fired a one-under par 71, at 149.

FH Invt'l starts today

MORE THAN A HUNDRED TWO-MAN TEAMS PARticipate in the sixth edition of the Forest Hills Invitational golf tournament starting today. Forest Hills Golf Club will again host the annual four-day tournament co-presented by Golforce Inc. and Wilson Sports together with major sponsors New Life Center and Foodlink. The field, composed of a Forest Hills member and his guest, will be competing for the coveted overall championship in three divisions. Attractive holes-in-one prizes are also at stake: a brand-new Tuscan from Hyundai, a golf cart from Club Car plus Nike and Wilson golf sets courtesy of Pacsports and Sports Specialists Worldwide. Asiawide Refreshments Corp. (RC Cola), CJH Dev. Co., CJH Manor Hotel, lawyer Gilberto Duavit, Ericsson, Fairways and Bluewater, Gerry's Grill, Gruppo Armani, MRT, Philippine Airlines, Puma Time Wear, and Solar Sports are the other sponsors.

Live, and in color, the horror that was Tejada

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IN HIS FOURTH SEASON IN THE PBA, Eugene Tejada suffers the horror of a fall that injures his neck and cervical/spinal cord. Live, and in color.

At Makati Med where Tejada is confined, doctors say Tejada might need a surgery, if not surgeries, to hopefully return him to his original, healthy self.

What happened to both Superman and EZ Zobel, wheelchair-bound for years before they died due to spinal injuries after falling off horses, assaults the mind.

Please say a prayer for the Fil-Am, whose basketball career—should medical masters mercifully fail—is in danger of having an abrupt end.

Far from turning 30, Tejada's too young to lose a profession.

One "Our Father" for Tejada, please?

...I recently suffered a similar fate medically termed "cervical disc injury." Not from basketball, though, but from writing too much.

Who said writing isn't hazardous to one's health?

In my case, X-rays and MRIs showed my C 3-4-5 misaligned, the result of too much sitting while writing. Asian Hospital's Dr. Antonio Ma. G. Calanoc and Capitol's Dr. Editha A. Tuason have agreed on putting me to a multiple-session, four-week therapy/rehab at Capitol under expert PTs Bjorn Berber and Jade Francisco.

Thank God, two more rehabs and I'm done.

Golf, here I come.

Tejada was playing his 70th PBA game when he lost his rebound balance and fell buttocks first.

That was last Sunday, May 14, when Purefoods, Tejada's third PBA team in three years after Alaska 2003-2004 and San Miguel Beer 2005, was playing Red Bull.

Sunday's game made him accumulate a total of 595 minutes, the last 9 of which saw him score 2 points on 1-of-2 shooting, snare 2 rebounds and block one shot.

This particular Sunday, he played 3 minutes in the first quarter and was 0-for-1 from the field, 2 minutes each in the second and third. In the third, he was 1-of-1—his basket making it 37-57, Purefoods behind, with 4:20 gone in the period.

Barely two minutes after coach Ryan Gregorio fielded Tejada in the fourth, Tejada' would suffer the tragedy that threw the league in panic as it absorbed its most serious accident since the PBA's birth in 1975.

Playing in his 12th game in the 14th match for Purefoods in the conference, Tejada would soon rank it as the game he hoped he'd never played in.

It happened with the score pegged at 73-54, Red Bull up, 5:43 left in the game.

You are down by 19 points with under 6 minutes left, who would die playing for a win?

Tejada, it'd be.

Giants' Roger Yap had missed on a lay-up. Tejada went for the rebound, caught some skin of Yap and both fell.

In a split second, the lumbering Mick Pennisi of Red Bull, all of 6-foot-10, fell on Tejada, 6-foot-5-1/2, as Yap was picking himself safely up.

When he hit wood, Tejada said he heard —felt?—a crack in his body.

Soon, he'd be writhing in pain.

Soon, he'd be in tears.

Soon, he'd find his girl friend, the actress Jenny Fernandez, consoling him no end—with ABC-5's Pat Bermudez Hizon close by.

As he lay there numb from waist down, a teammate, Kerby Raymundo, held his hand.

Other teammates, team officials and doctors from both friend and enemy camps hovered around him.

Nobody would touch him as though he had the bubonic plague.

Because Lifeline Arrows wasn't around, had no standby ambulance in stark violation of league contracts, Tejada lay on the floor for nearly 40 minutes—helpless as a cat hit by a hit-and-run maniac.

If a fan gone berserk had shot Tejada in the leg instead of Tejada suffering the fall, the poor kid would have died from loss of blood.

Gosh, Antipolo's Ynares Center, scene of the accident, was almost an hour away from Makati Med!

Stretcher and ambulance, where were they for Chrissakes?

"Caloy" had swept them off to the South China Sea?

Rene Pardo would have been justified tearing the Lifeline Arrows logo instead of kicking the dilapidated mattress being offered to load Tejada en route to the invisible ambulance.

If Commissioner Eala is still sharpening his arrows right now to shoot down Lifeline, I recommend instead an AK-47. Quicker. Deadlier.

What will happen now to Tejada, born in Daly City and who turns 26 on Sept. 24, not even his father, Danilo, a former basketball player himself from Rosario, Batangas, would know. Nor his mother, Angeles, a nurse from Balayan, Batangas.

Tejada's Dad and Mom have arrived from the United States where they've been living for decades—the last four years far from their son.

In times like this, please light a candle for the art of coping with tragedy —if ever there is one.

***

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

SPORTSWATCH

World Cup tour

THE "SPORTSPLUS WORLD CUP GOAL GETAWAY" will try to erase the notion that soccer is played exclusively on flatlands as it visits Baguio City on Saturday. The touring event organized by Solar Entertainment Corp. in cooperation with the Philippine Football Federation headed by Johnny Romualdez has already had stops in Subic, Davao City, Ateneo football pitch in Loyola Heights and San Carlos City. It is slated in seven different venues on the weekends leading to the 2006 Fifa World Cup in Germany.

PCRC summer fun run

THE PASIG CITY RUNNING CLUB IS HOLDING ITS 7th PCRC 5K and 10K summer fun run on Sunday with 3,000 runners expected to participate. Starting at 6 a.m. just outside the Ultra and finishing inside the track oval, the event, sponsored by Pharmaton and supported by the city government of Pasig headed by Mayor Vicente Eusebio, will have age-group categories in the 10K distance aside from the overall winners. The 10K run winner will receive P3,000.

Pisa Maritime Golf

DORIS MAGSAYSAY HO, CHAIR AND PRESIdent of the Philippine Interisland Shipping Association, announced the staging of the 3rd Pisa Maritime Golf Tournament on May 26 at the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite. DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza will do the ceremonial tee-off. Call (02) 404-1260.

Drag racing Saturday

TOP DRIVERS GEAR UP FOR THE SECOND LEG OF the 2006 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship this Saturday at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit. Registration is now ongoing. Participants may contact BRC operations manager Rodini Rivera or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241. Leo Joel Cordero and Dave Jota are the top favorites.

Pili Kaogma Speedfest

THE ULTIMATE SPEEDFEST CHAMPIONSHIP OF MP Turbo will be part of the weeklong celebration of the Kaogma Festival at the Camarines Sur Provincial Capitol Complex in Pili. The Kaogma Speedfest combines motocross on Saturday and 4x4 time trials, underbone trials and fun games on Sunday. Other sport activities are the 4x4 extreme race, shooting and air soft competitions and wakeboarding. For info, call or text 09194921575 or e-mail mpturbo@mydestiny.net.

Mitra, Hufano lead

ABM PALAWAN VINO, AN ENTRY OF REP. BAHAM Mitra, dominated the elimination round of National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) 8–bullstag derby Tuesday night at the Araneta Coliseum after posting a perfect score of four points. Pablo Hufano of Pangasinan (Partners Balani) also scored four points to lead the early qualifiers. The second round elimination continues today at the Araneta Coliseum with 80 fights. NFGB president Ricoy Palmares Jr. said that over 200 entries from 18 breeders organizations are expected for this event which stakes P3 million. Entry fee is P15,000.

Kayang-Kaya cockfest

NO LESS THAN P1.5 MILLION IN GUARANTEED prize awaits the champions in another blockbuster cockfest at Roligon Mega Cockpit, dubbed as Kayang-Kaya 5-cock derby on May 30, June 1 and 3. Host Rolly Ligon pegged the entry fee at P7,700 and minimum bet at P4,400. The fastest win champion will drive home a three-door Pajero (automatic with aircon). Meanwhile, Roligon's weekly Fastest Win Event One-Cock Ulutan/Hackfight resumes tomorrow.

ABS-CBN's Apollo Tenerife leads a long train of Ford Focus racing cars around the track.

Toledo tops Ford race

FORMER PRESS UNDERSECRETARY MIKE TOLEDO bested eight other personalities in the finals to seal victory in the Ford Focus Celebrity-Media Cup for Charity organized by the Tuason Racing School recently .

Toledo, a lawyer, emerged as the top driver in a field that was whittled down from 80 participants to just nine finalists. In the final race, Toledo shot off the line and into the lead without ever looking back and crossed the finish line at the end of eight laps with a 3-second margin over restaurateur Louie Ysmael.

The event is powered by Ford Racing and supported by Addict Mobile, E-Standard Insurance, Petron Ultron, Bosch, Goodyear, Rota, Oakley, Epson, Tradeshow, H&R, Starbright Body Kits, Manila Speedzone, Trapik.com, C!, Philippine Star, Bravura, K&N, Sikkens and Palmer-Asia.

Toledo won P100,000, which will go to his designated beneficiary, the Leukemic Indigent Fund Endowment, plus a handsome trophy.

RP netters beat Hong Kong in World Jrs

THE PHILIPPINES BEAT HONG KONG, 2-1, at the start of the World Juniors Tennis Championships Asia-Oceania zonal qualifying tournament yesterday at the Pusat Tennis Kemayoran court in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Francis Casey Alcantara, coming off a two-leg sweep of the Asian 14-Under Series in Sri Lanka, secured the tie for the Filipinos after beating Kwun-Ho James Kong, 6-0, 6-3, in the second singles.

Akio Sy, had earlier won the first singles over Ryan Ho, 6-3, 6-1.

Hong Kong prevented a rout when the tandem of Kong and Justin To won the doubles over Kim Ivor Saraza and Sy, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

The victory put the seventh-seeded Philippines into a tie with second seed Japan on top of Group 4. The Japanese won over Singapore, 3-0.

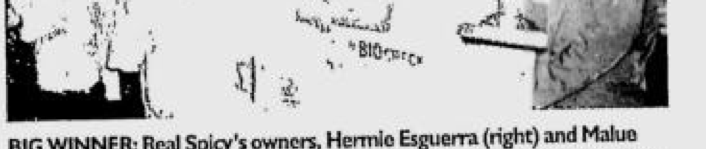
Top seed China defeated Malaysia, 3-0, while Korea beat Uzbekistan, 2-1, to share Group 1 lead.

Other opening-day winners were fifth seed Thailand over Iran, 3-0, and fourth seed Chinese Taipei over New Zealand, 2-1, in Group 2, and third seed India over Pacific Oceania, 3-0, and No. 6 Indonesia over Sri Lanka, 3-0, in Group 3.

Meanwhile, the RP girls squad of Ma. Regina Santiago, Noelle Nikki Camille Zoleta and Zhane Quitara bowed to Chinese Taipei, 0-3.

In other results, fourth seed Japan downed Malaysia, 3-0, and fifth seed Indonesia beat New Zealand, 2-1, in Group 2; third seed China defeated Singapore, 3-0, and No. 6 India blasted Hong Kong, 3-0, in Group 3, while second seed Thailand prevailed over Sri Lanka, 3-0, and seventh seed Korea defeated Pacific Oceania, 3-0, in Group 4.

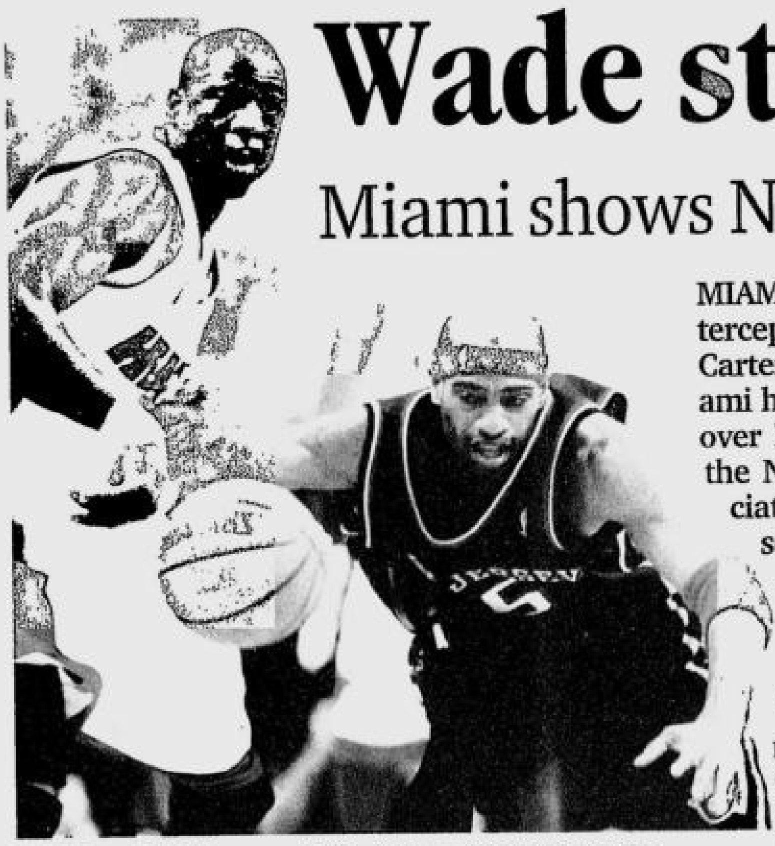
The top four teams in the boys and girls division will join the other regional qualifiers from Europe, South America, North/Central America and Caribbean and Africa in the World Junior finals scheduled Aug. 7-12 in Prostejov, Czech Republic.



BIG WINNER: Real Spicy's owners, Hermie Esguerra (right) and Malue Esguerra (third from right), receive the PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup trophy and the facsimile of the P1.1M first prize check from PCSO Chair Sergio Valencia following Real Spicy's victory in the race at the San Lazaro Leisure Park. With them are (from left) PCSO Committee on Races officials Rey Empremiado, Henry Beech, Jose Malang and Ambassador Gyorgy Pusztin of Hungary.

Wade steal seals Heat victory

Miami shows New Jersey the door, advances to East finals



IN THE game's defining moment, Miami's Dwyane Wade (left) bats the ball away from New Jersey's Vince Carter to seal the Heat's victory. AP

MIAMI—DWYANE WADE INtercepted a pass for Vince Carter as time expired, and Miami held on for a 106-105 win over New Jersey and reached the National Basketball Association semifinals for the second straight year.

Antoine Walker scored 23 points and Wade overcame a slow start to add 21 for the second-seeded Heat on Tuesday, who eliminated the third-seeded Nets in five games and await the winner of the Detroit-Cleveland series.

Walker and backup center Alonzo Mourning picked up the slack for Wade and Shaquille O'Neal, who again was limited by foul trouble and scored 17 points.

"We are back and playing at a high level," O'Neal said. "Our X men are playing well. In the next round we just want to play whoever is the best team."

A year ago, Miami lost in seven games to Detroit as Wade tried to play through a painful rib injury.

Wade has taken some terrific tumbles in this year's playoffs but the superstar guard is relatively healthy and will have at least a week off before the next series.

"We get to rest a little but then bring it on," Wade said. "It's a nice feeling knowing you're the first team (in the semis) and can watch everyone else try to get in."

After erasing a double-digit first-half deficit, the Heat never trailed in the fourth quarter, taking the lead for good at 98-96 on a breakaway dunk by Wade with 4:37 to play.

He made six-of-10 shots in the second half after a one-of-nine start.

Jason Williams scored 12 points, Mourning added 11 and Gary Payton 10 for the Heat, who shot 56 percent (42-of-75) to overcome 15-of-29 foul shooting.

Jefferson also scored 33 points, Jason Kidd added 20 and Lamond Murray 14 for the Nets, who shot 54 percent (40-of-74).

New Jersey lost the last four games after winning game one in Miami.

Behind Carter, the Nets jumped to a 33-24 lead and to 38-27 on a jumper by Kidd with 10:15 left in the second.

"We attacked the basket and were aggressive, but a loss is a loss. We're going home," Carter said. *AFP*

Suns outlast Clippers in 2 OT, take 3-2 lead

RAJA Bell (right) shoots the game-tying 3-pointer in overtime over Daniel Ewing. AFP

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—SHAWN MARION scored six of his 36 points in the second overtime as Phoenix outlasted the Los Angeles Clippers, 125-118, on Tuesday to take a 3-2 lead in their quarterfinal series.

"We came out, battled and hung in there pulled it out man," Marion said. "It is all about pain."

In yet another thrilling overtime postseason game, the second-seeded Suns moved within one win of a return trip to the National Basketball Association's penultimate round.

They blew a 19-point second-half lead and were rescued by Raja Bell, who drained a tying three-pointer with 1.1 seconds to play in the first overtime.

"It was good play call," Bell said. "I thought if I got open I was going to make it. I wasn't ready to go home yet.

"This has been our character all year. If someone makes a mistake we don't point fingers."

Matched up against the bigger Elton Brand for most of the game, Marion did most of the work inside for the Suns.

He made 16-of-33 shots and helped Phoenix fight on the backboards. And with most players nearing exhaustion in the second overtime, Marion still had a reserve of energy.

He opened the period with two free throws—Phoenix's first made foul shots since the second quarter—and added a flying follow dunk to give the Suns the lead for good at 115-113 with 3:20 remaining.

Marion appeared to hurt his ankle on the play but returned shortly thereafter. After a three-point play by Brand pulled the Clippers within 119-118 with 1:22 to go, Marion took a nifty pass from Canada's Steve Nash and made a running bank shot at the 1:05 mark.

The sixth-seeded Clippers never scored again as Leandro Barbosa and Nash each sank two foul shots to seal it.

With game six in Los Angeles on Thursday, Los Angeles was one stop from going home with a 3-2 lead after a turnover by Nash led to two free throws by Sam Cassell that opened a 111-108 lead with 3.6 seconds left in OT.

Tim Thomas scored 25 points, Bell added 22 and Nash 17 and 13 assists for the Suns, who shot 46 percent (49-of-107), including 11-of-29 from the arc.

Brand had 33 points, 15 rebounds and five blocks and Cassell scored 32 points for the Clippers, who shot 41 percent (42-of-103). *AFP*

GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY
AUTOWIDE
TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS & SUVs
BIG PRICE CUT
May 18 to June 3, 2006
Sale Starts 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
ISUZU 10W WING VAN TRUCK-ALUM (Giga Type)
ISUZU ELF REFRIGERATED VAN TRUCK (Cat Eye)
ISUZU 10W TRANSIT MIXER
ISUZU 10W DUMP TRUCK
SALE SITE
: Lot C Rizal Highway, Subic Gateway, Subic Bay Freeport Zone Telefax no.: (047) 252-5328
: GULLWING MOTORS INT'L. CORP. #57 Amang Rodriguez Ave., Santolan, Pasig City
Tel. no.: 646-7739 Fax no.: 668-1378
www.myautowide.com

KARATE OPEN

National team standouts shine

MALALAD: Seeded

TAGUM CITY—NATIONAL TEAM standouts Bernardino Chu, Mae Eso and Irineo Toribio stamped their class in their respective events at the end of the 19th National Karate Open championships recently at the PB San Jose Gymnasium here.

Chu, of YDKA-Cagayan de Oro, bagged the gold in the -65 kg. men's kumite category by beating Rolando Lagman of SKI-NCR in the final round.

Eso of SKI-Manila dominated the -53 kg. women's kumite event against Angelica Saligan in the finals while Philippine Army standout Toribio topped the -60 kg. men's kumite class after beating Cebuano karateka Jim Paredes.

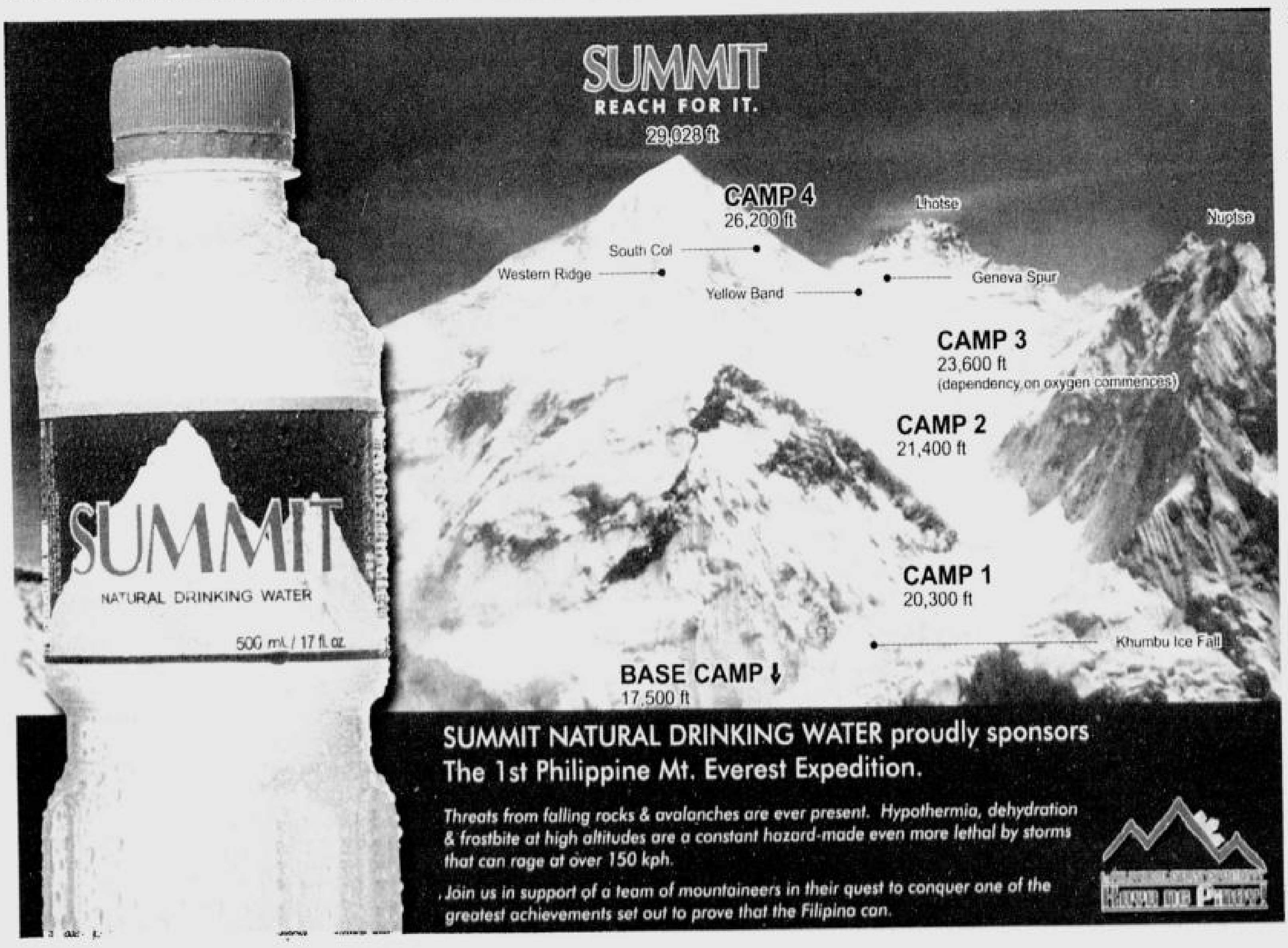
Other winners in the tournament organized by Philippine Karate Federation (PKF) Region XI director Ernesto Tacay were Niño Franco (-55 kg. men's kumite), Adorra Aquino (-48 kg. women's kumite), Salman Saad (men's open weight kumite) and May Libao (women's open weight kumite).

Southeast Asian Games bronze medalist Cherli Tugday was the most bemedaled karateka in the two-day meet with 1 gold, 1 silver at 1 bronze.

The 26-year-old Tugday, who won a bronze alongside Gretchen Malalad in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, placed third behind Libao and Anisa Pangcoga in the women's open weight event. She also emerged as the champion in the -60 kg. kumite event while placing second in the individual kata event.

"I'm happy about the results we got because all members of the team qualified again, thanks to the training of our coach, David Lay," said Malalad, who is already seeded to the national team, along with fellow SEAG gold medalists Marna Pabillore and Nelson Pacalso.

"We also found new potentials who could further strengthen the national karate team and we will prepare very hard for the world karate federation championships and the Asian Games," added Malalad.


SUMMIT
REACH FOR IT.
29,028 ft

SUMMIT NATURAL DRINKING WATER proudly sponsors
The 1st Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition.
Threats from falling rocks & avalanches are ever present. Hypothermia, dehydration & frostbite at high altitudes are a constant hazard-made even more lethal by storms that can rage at over 150 kph.
Join us in support of a team of mountaineers in their quest to conquer one of the greatest achievements set out to prove that the Filipino can.

Teener Uy produces perfection

JAMES MARTIN UY, 15, SCORED A PERFECT game recently at the monthly Ruler of the Lanes tournament of the Sta. Lucia East Tenpin Bowling Association (Sletba) at the Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center in Cainta, Rizal.

This was Uy's first perfect game since he took up bowling two and a half years ago. A right hander, Uy used a 15-pound Fear Factor.

"I was so nervous when 'stop bowling' was announced," Uy said. "I felt my hands trembling and cold because all eyes were on me. I turned to my coach and mentor, Mr. Mer Tan, who told me: *"Huwag mo nang pakawalan yan* (Don't let it go)."

He took his position and calmly released the ball which rolled right into the pocket for the 300 score.

Uy, an incoming junior at the Lourdes School of Mandaluyong, is a member of the Sletba "Batang X-tra," a group of young bowlers being trained by Tan and Boy Florencio. Batang X-tra has slated a bowling fellowship on June 12 at the Sta. Lucia Bowling Center, with cash prizes at stake.

The 6-foot-3 James also plays basketball when not bowling. He said he bowls only once a week when there's classes, and practices four times a week during the summer break.

James expressed his gratitude to his father, Jimmy Uy, a businessman and himself a good bowler, mom Marilou, coach Tan and Boy Florencio, his "classmates" and friends at Batang X-tra and Sletba for their support.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
Text us your feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Wrong way to 'discover' new child star

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVERY YEAR, OUR TV CHANnels hold competitions for child performers—singers, actors, dancers, hosts, models, or all of the above. That's all to the good, because local show business needs new infusions of young talents to help keep our shows fresh and vital.

In many instances, however, TV tilts for child talents are characterized by a wrong-headed approach to "discovering" the juvenile stars of tomorrow.

Instead on focusing on real talent and stellar charisma, they stress *porma*, *gaya-gaya*, *iyak-tawa*, and making kids look and perform like little adults.

This is terribly wrong. Even if a child is genuinely talented, by the time he or she emerges from this injudicious process, he or she has become shallow, pa-cute, self-conscious, artificial and cloying.

This is a great pity, because Filipino children are exceptionally natural and gifted talents—before their stage parents and the TV channels wreak their worst on them.

Why do they do this? Because they believe that local viewers think kids who act like little adults are cute and smart. And because TV people go for program elements that can be depended on to instantly gratify the audience, and "cute" kids, no matter how artificial, are thought to be a quick way to do this.

It's understandable, but it's a poor use of our young resources. It also makes for dismayingly brief careers, for the most part: After a year or so, the cute kid of the moment has become so predictable that he's quickly replaced with another juvenile "talent," ad nauseam.

The approach is truly wrong-headed, because local show biz history completely refutes and debunks it.

Think of the best child stars in past decades, like **Nino Muhlach** and **Aiza Seguerra**, and you will realize that they became young superstars precisely because they weren't *porma*, didn't resort to *gaya-gaya* and *iyak-tawa*, but were in fact original talents who were true to themselves and refused to do what everybody else was doing.

As a result, they stood out, and millions of viewers doted on them, because they were genuinely smart and idiosyncratic, and loved to talk a blue streak.

If this is the top standard, shouldn't other child talents also aspire to reach that level? But no, their unenlightened stage parents and knee-jerk TV people don't have the imagination, creativity and determination for it. So, most young talents are compromised much too early in the game, before they can really soar.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that, even after so many kiddie talent tilts, we don't have a major child star today?

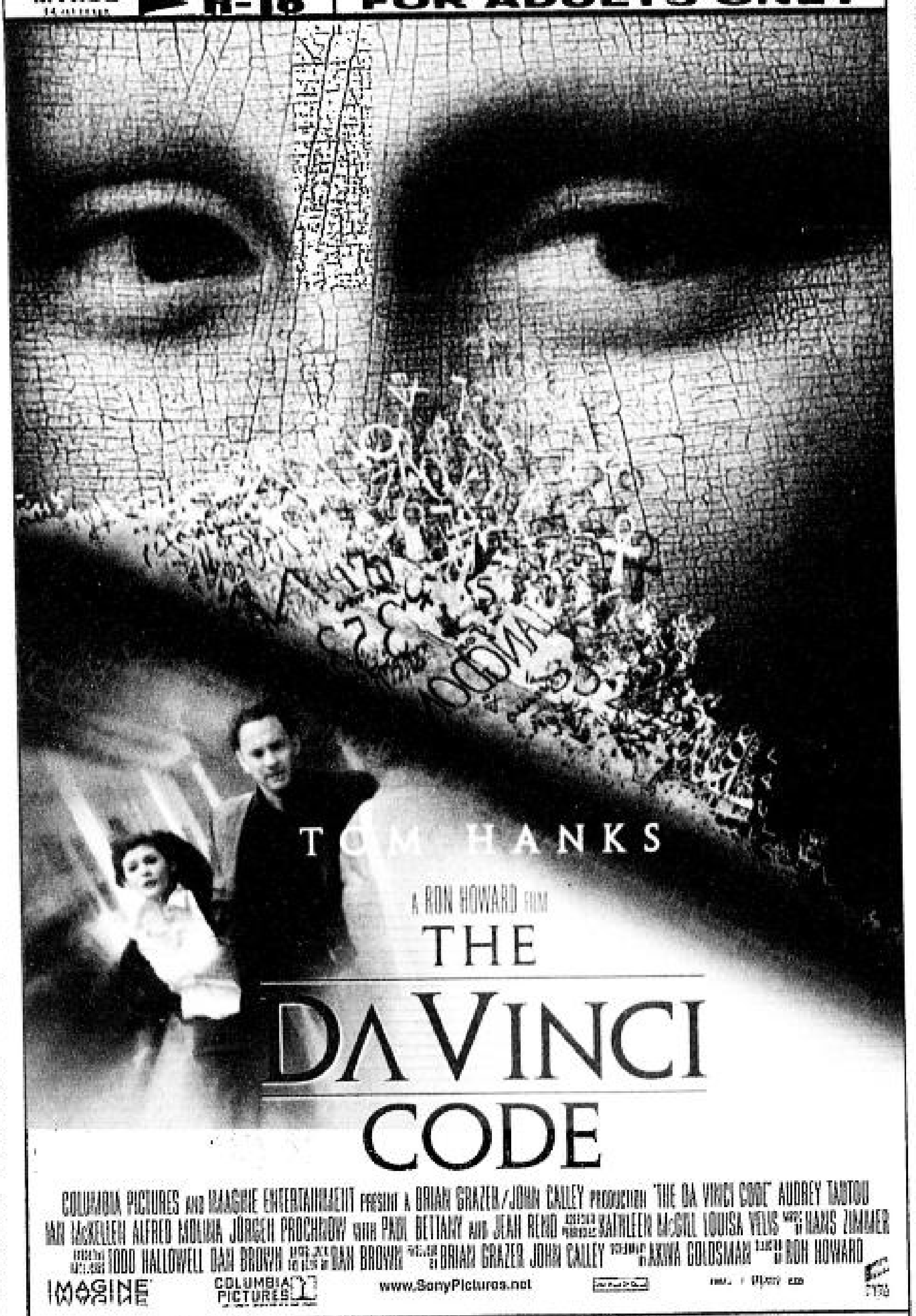
The fault, dear readers, isn't in our child talents, but in the brutes who mishandle them, and thus pre-

WRONG/ A2-2

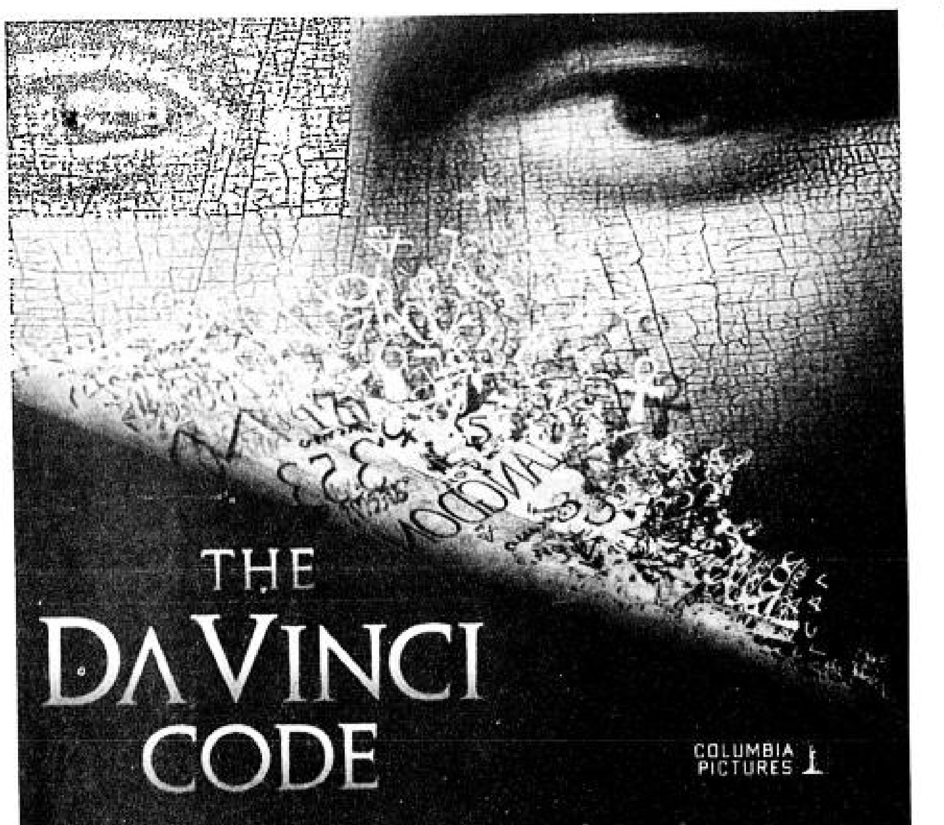
> In spite of so many kiddie talent tilts, why we don't have a major child star today? The fault is in the brutes who mishandle them

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 THE DA VINCI CODE R18
CINEMA 2 POSEIDON / THE DA VINCI CODE PG13 / R18
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE DA VINCI CODE R18
CINEMA 4 THE DA VINCI CODE R18
CINEMA 5 THE DA VINCI CODE R18
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
May 27, 2006 ERIK MANA 8:00PM
EVERY FRI & SAT OF JUNE NINA ... in VERY MANILOW 9:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
MAY 26 & 27 2006 WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" 8:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 118
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Novellino
The only way to enjoy wine for all occasions.
You know the day is special when you open a bottle of Novellino wines. Bold, refreshing flavors. Rich, sparkling textures. Make each day special - it has never tasted so good.



OPENS TODAY
AT 100+ PARTICIPATING CINEMAS NATIONWIDE!
MTRCB R-18 FOR ADULTS ONLY
TOM HANKS
A RON HOWARD FILM
THE DA VINCI CODE
COLUMBIA PICTURES AND IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A BRIAN GRAZER/JOHN CALLEY PRODUCTION "THE DA VINCI CODE" AUDREY TAUTOU IAN McKELLEN ALFRED MOLINA JÜRGEN PROCHNOW WITH PAUL BETTANY AND JEAN RENO [illegible] KATHLEEN McGILL LOUISA VELIS [illegible] HANS ZIMMER [illegible] TODD HALLOWELL DAN BROWN [illegible] DAN BROWN [illegible] BRIAN GRAZER JOHN CALLEY [illegible] AKIVA GOLDSMAN [illegible] RON HOWARD
IMAGINE COLUMBIA PICTURES www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES



THE DA VINCI CODE
COLUMBIA PICTURES
OPENS TODAY AT ALL AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
AYALA MALLS CINEMAS' THE DA VINCI CODE SCREENING SCHEDULES FOR MAY 18 ONLY
GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 2 - 11:00 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:20, 8:30
Cinema 3* - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 10:30
Cinema 5 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 9:00
Cinema 6 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 10:00
GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 9:00
Cinema 2 - 12:10 PM, 3:20 PM, 6:30, 9:40
GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Onstage - 2:10 PM, 5:20, 8:30
* THX & Guaranteed Seat Cinema
** Digital Sound & Guaranteed Seat Cinemas
Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 1:40 PM, 4:50, 11:10
Cinema 2* - 1:10 PM, 4:20, 10:40
Cinema 5** - 11:00 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:20, 11:40
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 12:30 PM, 3:40 PM, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Cinema 3 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1 - 11:45 AM, 2:55, 6:05, 7:20, 9:15
Cinema 5 - 12:15 PM, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 12:30 PM, 3:10, 6:10
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 2:40, 5:40, 9:00
Reserve your seat by texting SURESEATS GB3 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation.
glorietta GREENBELT AYALA CENTER CEBU TOWN MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

This summer, enjoy our lowest balance transfer rate – 0.88%!*
Now, you can pay less interest on your non-HSBC credit card balance with HSBC's lowest Balance Transfer rate ever.
Hurry, this rate is available only until 13 June 2006.
Transfer to HSBC today. For more details call 878-7878.
*monthly add on rate for 12 and 18 month terms
Spend this summer with
HSBC The world's local bank
Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited
Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1511 Series of 2006.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

MOVIEWORLD

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9116

1 DA VINCI CODE • THX
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 DA VINCI CODE
5 DA VINCI CODE
6 DA VINCI CODE
7 SILENT HILL
8 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
9 POSEIDON
10 AQUAMARINE

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 SILENT HILL
4 POSEIDON
5 DA VINCI CODE
6 DA VINCI CODE
7 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 SLITHER
4 POSEIDON
5 DA VINCI CODE
6 DA VINCI CODE
7 DA VINCI CODE
8 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 SLITHER
5 POSEIDON
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 POSEIDON
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

THE DA VINCI CODE 05.18.06
MTRCB Rating: R-18
NOW SHOWING
at all Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas
GALLERIA • ERMITA • METRO EAST • NOVALICHES • PIONEER • MALABON
STA. ROSA • IMUS • DASMARIÑAS • LIPA • STARMILLS, PAMPANGA
ANGELES • BACOLOD • ILOILO
Tickets are now available at the ticket booth
For inquiries, pls. call our Customer Service at 632-9116

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 POSEIDON
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 POSEIDON
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2126 (046) 416-4332

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 POSEIDON

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 POSEIDON
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

IMUS (046) 875-3836 (046) 474-8188

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 POSEIDON
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
6 DA VINCI CODE

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 POSEIDON
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
5 DA VINCI CODE
6 DA VINCI CODE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0463 (034) 441-0459

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 SUBMERGED
5 POSEIDON
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 THE SENTINEL
5 POSEIDON
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

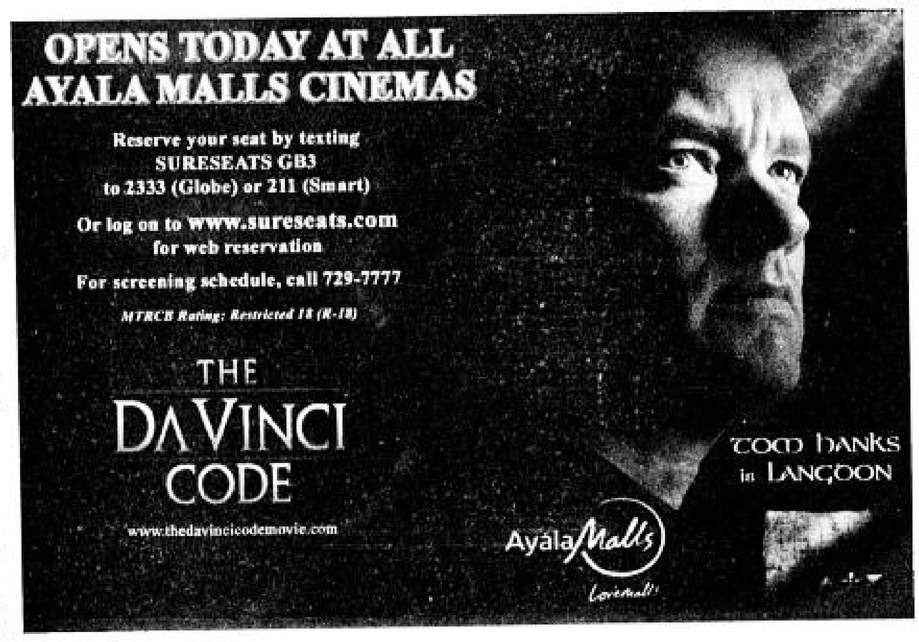
The
Perfect Gift
All Year Round
A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.
Get Special discounts for volume purchases!
For marketing and events/reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

THE DA VINCI CODE R18 1:00,4:00,10:00	THE DA VINCI CODE R18 2:00,5:00,8:00	THE DA VINCI CODE R18 3:15,6:15,9:15
THE DA VINCI CODE R18 1:15,4:15,7:15,10:15	POSEIDON PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	THE DA VINCI CODE R18 11:30,2:15,5:15,8:15

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

OPENS TODAY AT ALL
AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
Reserve your seat by texting
SURESEATS GB3
to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
for web reservation
For screening schedule, call 729-7777
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
THE
DA VINCI
CODE
www.thedavincicodemovie.com
PAUL BETTANY
in SILAS
Ayala Malls
Love mall!



OPENS TODAY AT ALL
AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
Reserve your seat by texting
SURESEATS GB3
to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
for web reservation
For screening schedule, call 729-7777
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)
THE
DA VINCI
CODE
www.thedavincicodemovie.com
TOM HANKS
in LANGDON
Ayala Malls
Love mall!

THE DA VINCI CODE 05.18.06
MTRCB Rating: R-18
NOW SHOWING
at all Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas
GALLERIA • ERMITA • METRO EAST • NOVALICHES • PIONEER • MALABON
STA. ROSA • IMUS • DASMARIÑAS • LIPA • STARMILLS, PAMPANGA
ANGELES • BACOLOD • ILOILO
Tickets are now available at the ticket booth
For inquiries, pls. call our Customer Service at 632-9116

ARANETA CENTER
Gateway ALIMALL FarmersPlaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY — Gateway CinePlex*10 — DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

POSEIDON 12:40 / 2:25 / 3:00 / 4:45 5:20 / 7:05 / 7:40 / 9:25 / 10:00	THE DA VINCI CODE 11:15 / 11:50 / 1:00 / 2:15 2:50 / 4:00 / 5:15 / 5:50 7:00 / 8:15 / 8:50 / 10:00	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 1:00 / 1:40 / 3:40 / 4:20 6:20 / 7:00 / 9:00 / 10:00	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA THE DA VINCI CODE 12:25 / 3:25 / 6:25 / 9:25
THE WILD 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00	SILENT HILL 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	REINCARNATION 7:10 / 9:20	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

ALIMALL CINEMAS

1	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:10 / 2:55 / 5:45 / 8:35	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: 3 12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00	POSEIDON 12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30
4	APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	SLITHER 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM

BARBIE ROCKS THE BIG DOME
MAY 19, Friday 8:00 pm

PBA PHILIPPINE CUP
MAY 24 Wed 4:40 AIR 21 vs SAN MIGUEL
7:35 ALASKA vs GINEBRA

What is 'pecha

But can romance solve all problems? Counselor doesn't think so

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHAT IS "PECHAYAN?"
That's the term for "flirting" in
Lauren Dyogi, director of ABS
expressed alarm over the teen
tion with romantic affairs. "Hop
ferent [relationship] dynamics
Dyogi said. "We don't want to dw
According to "Pinoy Big Broth
Randy Dellosa, couplings are in
they'd focus more on friendship
and a good foundation for roman
Dellosa corrected the impress
Payawan—booted on Saturday,
along with Joaqui Mendoza—h
house to join his rumored girlfri
housemate Niña Jose. "She was
son," Dellosa told INQUIRER Ente
terview. "Fred still wanted to sta
Meanwhile, there's a budding
Evans and Olyn Membian.
Some problems can't be solved
Jamilla Obispo, Dellosa noted,
if she misses her 11-month-ol
needs to be reminded that she's
her family—to help them financi
Speaking of family, Dellosa s
throws to housemates who co
"You may miss your family, but
cause they see you on television

Battle of sexes?

Meanwhile, there seems to b
the now-famous house on Mothe
The boys suffered two losses
were booted; Clare Cabiguin a
eviction, were saved by text vote
On air, Mikee Lee and Matt p
tayo (We're being depleted)."
Clare still feels intimidated by
Joaqui," Dellosa said. "The guy
the girls always thought he was a
He said Fred, Joaqui, Clare a
prepared for the worst.
"They knew they were helples
viewers," Dellosa said. "I asked
to project if they were evicted. T
to remain the same."
On Saturday, two more ho
house. Included in the nominees
day were Matt, Mikee and Olyn.
The remaining housemates m
for their regular counseling ses
threshed out several issues.
Dellosa surmised that Bam R
two weeks ago had "corrected th
attitude" and curbed violations

ROUND

'Poseidon': Bottom

LOS ANGELES—IT WAS BOTTOM
as the cruise ship disaster remake
Impossible III" from a second wee
fice, according to studio estimates
"Mission: Impossible III" clun
million take during an anemic N
weekend that saw the Tom Cruis
cent from its opening weekend.
Internationally, "Mission: Imp
other $37.3 million to bring its tw
to $214 million (165.71 million
"Poseidon," which reportedly
make, debuted in second place
as a solid weekend opening of $2
Estimated ticket sales for Frid
and Canadian theaters, accordin
official trackers:
1) "Mission: Impossible III,"
$20.3M; 3) "RV," $9.5M; 4) "Just
American Haunting," $3.7M; 6
"Stick It," $3.2M; 8) "Ice Age:
"Silent Hill," $2.2M; 10) "Hoot,"

New 'Prison Break'

DALLAS—Fox is bringing its
Break" to the Metroplex. The tel
day said it will begin filming t
show on June 15 in the Dallas ar
"Prison Break," which won th
Award for new drama and a G
follows Michael Scofield, a pr
Wentworth Miller, who gets hims
out his brother Lincoln Burrows
was framed for murder.
The inmates escaped near th
which was shot around Chicago
has a home in Dallas and said he
wide variety of settings were av

Wrong way

From page A2-1

vent them from coming into the
and appealing young stars.

Feedback

From Angelo A. Veluz of Que
"Da Vinci Code" movie should be
It is an attack on the divinity of J
Church itself. If the movie is true
serves greater scrutiny and cautio
be even more disturbing than the
ages are more powerful that word

"Cars"

John Lasseter's latest film, "Ca
long loves, the animated and auto
tor of the "Toy Story" movies now t
naughty race car that gets a lesson
"Cars" is set in a world populat
featuring the voice of Owen Wilso
hotshot rookie race car so cocky
through life without family and
stranded in a sleepy town, where h
ing down and reassessing his prio

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

yan' in Big Brother's house?

ig Brother's house.
CBN's reality show, has
ousemates' preoccupa-
ully, we'll get to see dif-
in the coming weeks,"
ll on crushes."
r" resident psychologist
evitable. "[But] I wish
which is longer-lasting
ic relationships."
on that housemate Fred
he third eviction night,
d wanted to leave the
nd and (earlier) evicted
't a strong enough rea-
tainment in a phone in-
in the game."
romance between Matt

by romance, though.
is not about to quit even
son, Miggy. "She only
the house precisely for
lly," the counselor said.
d he has a line that he
plain of homesickness:
hey don't miss you be-
4-7."

a battle of the sexes in
Ignacia Avenue.
when Fred and Joaqui
Jamilla, nominees for
s.
it it this way: *"Nauubos*

he boys. "She didn't like
had accepted him, but
rogant."
d Jamilla had all been

because it was up to the
hat image they wanted
ey all said they wanted

emates will leave the
list announced last Sun-

with Dellosa last week
ion, during which they

mana's forced eviction
housemates' rebellious
the rules.

UP

up!

IS UP FOR "POSEIDON,"
failed to topple "Mission:
atop the nation's box of-
ast weekend.
to No. 1 with a $24.5
orth America box office
action film drop 49 per-

ossible III" raked in an-
o-week earnings overall
uros).
ost $150 million-plus to
ith what was described
0.3 million.
y through Sunday at US
to Exhibitor Relations,

$24.5M; 2) "Poseidon,"
My Luck," $5.5M; 5) "An
"United 93," $3.6M; 7)
he Meltdown," $3M; 9)
$2.1M.

claimed drama "Prison
vision network on Mon-
e second season of the
n.
s year's People's Choice
den Globe nomination,
on designer played by
lf jailed so he can break
(Dominic Purcell), who

end of the first season,
Producer Garry Brown
hose the area because a
able. *AP*

own as genuinely gifted

n City: "I don't think the
ated like any other film.
us, so it hits the Catholic
the book's intent, it de-
In fact, the movie could
ook, because moving im-
"

s," combines his two life-
otive worlds. The direc-
ils the animated story of a
n life in the slow lane.
d by talking automobiles,
as Lightning McQueen, a
nat he thinks he can roll
riends. But Lightning is
learns the value of slow-
ies.

OPENS TODAY AT ALL AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

Reserve your seat by texting
SURESEATS GB3
to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)

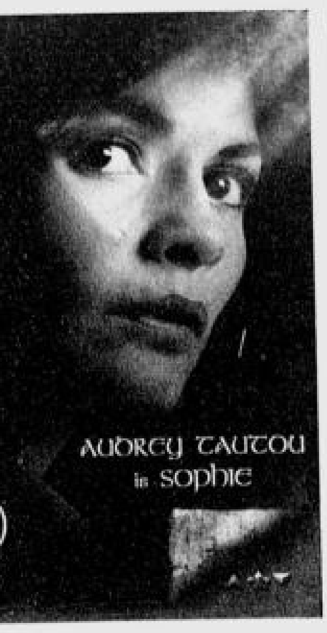
Or log on to www.sureseats.com
for web reservation

For screening schedule, call 729-7777

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

THE DA VINCI CODE
www.thedavincicodemovie.com

Ayala Malls



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE R18
2 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE R18
3 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE R18
4 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE R18

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) POSEIDON PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) THE WILD
2 (SDDS) DA VINCI CODE
3 (DTS) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
4 GOLD (DTS) POSEIDON
5 GOLD (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
6 GOLD (SDDS) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
8 [illegible] SILENT HILL
9 [illegible] POSEIDON
10 [illegible] DA VINCI CODE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) POSEIDON
2 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
4 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 POSEIDON
2 (DTS) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
3 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
4 DA VINCI CODE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
3 (DTS) POSEIDON
4 DA VINCI CODE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) SENTINEL

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SENTINEL
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
4 (DTS) POSEIDON

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 POSEIDON
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)
1 POSEIDON
2 DA VINCI CODE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 POSEIDON

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DOLBY) POSEIDON
4 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 POSEIDON
4 DA VINCI CODE
5 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DA VINCI CODE
5 POSEIDON

MARKET! MARKET!
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 DA VINCI CODE
2 THE SENTINEL
3 AQUAMARINE
4 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 POSEIDON
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 SILENT HILL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 POSEIDON
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
3 DA VINCI CODE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 FINAL DESTINATION
2 THE SENTINEL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) HAUNTED SPIRIT-2
2 KIRIDA
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 (DTS) FINAL DESTINATION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
2 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3 (DTS) POSEIDON
4 MISSION IMPOSIBLE-3
5 FINAL DESTINATION

THEATRES
NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan,
Telephone No (044) 600-3026
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 POSEIDON
3 POSEIDON

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 DA VINCI CODE
2 POSEIDON

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) DA VINCI CODE
2 POSEIDON
3 (DTS EX) SILEN HILL
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SUBMERGED
2 POSEIDON
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 MISSION IMPOSIBLE-3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
DA VINCI CODE
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
POSEIDON
RESERVED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 THE SENTINEL

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 FINAL DESTINATION
2 GISING NA SI ADAN

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SM CINEMA movietime
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999
CENTER stage · LIVE-LARGE
831-1000 loc. 2071, 2073, 2082, 2091
BIG MOVIES • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

BARRERA VERSUS JUAREZ

SOLAR SPORTS
MAY 21, 2006 • 8:30am
UNDERCARD MATCH

REY 'Boom-Boom' BAUTISTA
VERSUS
ROBERTO BONILLA

TICKET: P300

LIVE-LARGE BIG SCREEN! NO COMMERCIALS!

MEGAMALL 6331901 • NORTH EDSA 9244274 • STA. MESA 7161416 • MANILA 5239240 SOUTHMALL 8066888
FAIRVIEW 4176811 • PAMPANGA (045) 9637681 • CEBU (032) 2313876 • DAVAO (082) 2976998 • SM Clark

EVENT CALENDAR SM CENTER stage EVENT CALENDAR

MAXMEDIA PRESENTS
hale 2 nights to go!
LIVE IN CONCERT
MAY 20, 2006 SATURDAY
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 9
Tickets at (P180, P280, P380)
Tickets available at TICKETWORLD 891-5610/ 891-9999

METRO MANILA

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
POSEIDON
CINEMA 2
M:i:III

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
AQUAMARINE
ICE AGE 2
PAMAHIIN
M:i:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
POSEIDON
M:i:III
REINCARNATION
D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD
SENTINEL

SM CITY MANILA
M:i:III
AQUAMARINE
REINCARNATION
M:i:III
THE WILD
POSEIDON
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
D LUCKY ONES
PAMAHIIN
EIGHT BELOW

SM MEGACINEMA
POSEIDON
SENTINEL
M:i:III
POSEIDON
AQUAMARINE
REINCARNATION
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
D LUCKY ONES
SILENT HILL
M:i:III
THE WILD
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

SM CITY STA. MESA
POSEIDON
M:i:III
M:i:III
SILENT HILL
REINCARNATION
D LUCKY ONES
AQUAMARINE
SENTINEL
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
M:i:III
POSEIDON
M:i:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
PAMAHIIN
AQUAMARINE
REINCARNATION
D LUCKY ONES

SM NORTH EDSA
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
REINCARNATION
M:i:III
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
AQUAMARINE
POSEIDON
M:i:III

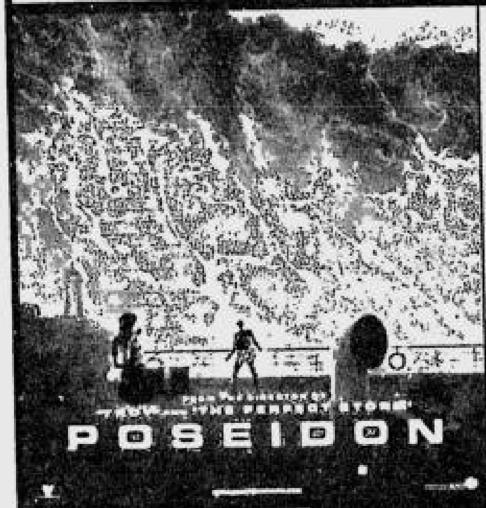
SM CITY BICUTAN
POSEIDON
M:i:III
SILENT HILL
POSEIDON

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
POSEIDON
POSEIDON
M:i:III
SILENT HILL

SM CITY DASMARINAS
M:i:III
CHINESE TALL STORY
AQUAMARINE
POSEIDON

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
POSEIDON
M:i:III
M:i:III
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY SUCAT
SILENT HILL
POSEIDON
M:i:III
POSEIDON


FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE PERFECT STORM"
POSEIDON

WHAT IF YOU WERE TRAPPED FACING CERTAIN DEATH?

WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT ALIVE?

POSEIDON

NOW SHOWING AND MAKING BIG WAVES AT

THE PODIUM · SM CINEMA

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO
POSEIDON
SYRIANA
M:i:III
M:i:III

SM CITY BATANGAS
SILENT HILL
POSEIDON
M:i:III
TRISTAN & ISOLDE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
M:i:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
AMERICAN SOLDIER
AQUAMARINE
PAMAHIIN

SM CITY MARILAO
POSEIDON
SUBMERGED
M:i:III
SENTINEL

SM CITY LUCENA
SHE'S THE MAN
M:i:III
THE WILD
POSEIDON

SM CITY MOLINO
M:i:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
GRANDMA'S BOY

SM CITY BACOOR
PAMAHIIN
M:i:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
M:i:III
POSEIDON
D LUCKY ONES
AQUAMARINE

SM CITY CLARK NOW OPEN
POSEIDON
AQUAMARINE
M:i:III
SILENT HILL
THE WILD
AMERICAN SOLDIER

SM CITY STA. ROSA
SHE'S THE MAN
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
POSEIDON
M:i:III

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
M:i:III
POSEIDON
SUBMERGED
GRANDMA'S BOY
SENTINEL
D LUCKY ONES
M:i:III
POSEIDON

SM CITY ILOILO
AQUAMARINE
RESERVED
D LUCKY ONES
M:i:III
AMERICAN SOLDIERS
POSEIDON
RESERVED
SUMERGED

SM CITY DAVAO
POSEIDON
SHE'S THE MAN
D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD
BANDIDAS
M:i:III

SM CITY CAGAYAN
POSEIDON
SUBMERGED
SENTINEL
M:i:III

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

so much fun!

movie bundle TICKET SAVERS
buy 2 tickets get 1 FREE*
May 18 June 18

movie raffle SURPRIZES
Get a chance to win
1 Computer Showcase
50 Internet Cards worth P100 each (50 winners)
10 SM Gift Cards worth P1,000 each (10 winners)
May 12 Aug 31

SM CINEMA CLARK
NOW OPEN
at the 2nd floor, SM City Clark
M.A. Roxas Highway, Clark Special Economic Zone, Clark Field, Pampanga

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING MTRCB RATING SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

starmall EDSA • SHAW
Tel No 726 8150
1: The Da Vinci Code
2: Mission Impossible 3
3: Poseidon

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850 4285
1: Poseidon
2: Over the Hedge
3: The Da Vinci Code
4: Mission Impossible 3

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!
Tuesdays Comedy Nights, Fridays Live Acoustic Bands at Cuba Libre Bar Starmall Edsa
Mondays Live Bands, Thursdays Comedy Nights at Mark's KTV Metropolis Star Alabang
3 DAY SALE (May 19-21) Ruby Rodriguez (May 20) Side A (May 27) Metropolis Star Alabang
Christian Bautista & Jennylyn Mercado (May 27) Starmall Edsa

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 POSEIDON
PG-13

2 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

3 THE DA VINCI CODE
11:30, 2:40, 6:00, 9:30

4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
PG-13

Get a life, people

FEEDBACK

From Hector Garcia (hfg@rocketmail.com), 114 Gloria IV Subd., Tandang Sora, QC:

To those who want "The Da Vinci Code" banned in the Philippines: Get a life! You should've asked for the book to be banned in the first place! What? You thought the book wasn't worth banning because people don't read? They just watch movies and TV? Find something better and more meaningful to do! The movie is based on the book, and the book is FICTION! FICTION! FICTION! Nothing in the book or movie will change my faith! After I read and watch, it's over! It's entertainment, don't you get it?!

SHANG CINEPLEX
① MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
MTRCB. PG-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF
② POSEIDON
MTRCB. PG-13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 LMF
③ MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30 LMF
④ POSEIDON
MTRCB. PG-13
2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE
THE WILD
MTRCB GP
1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05, 9:00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for All Seasons
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Cinema Treats - for Cinemas 1,2,3 and 4
Premiere Rewards - for the Premiere Theatre
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
DAHLIA
The MINER
The DARK NURSES
The JANITOR
The GREY CHILD
The RED PYRAMID
3RD WEEK
MTRCB RATING R-13
SILENT HILL

From the creators of SHREK and MADAGASCAR
DREAMWORKS
taking back the neighborhood.
OVER THE HEDGE
BRUCE WILLIS
GARY SHANDLING
STEVE CARELL
WILLIAM SHATNER
WANDA SYKES
NICK NOLTE
G
IN THEATERS TOMORROW

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777
THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 POSEIDON	4 THE DA VINCI CODE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1,00, 4:10, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 POSEIDON	5 THE DA VINCI CODE	6 THE DA VINCI CODE	7 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 POSEIDON	2 THE DA VINCI CODE		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1:40, 4:50, 11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1:10, 4:20, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 POSEIDON 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE DA VINCI CODE 11:00, 2:10, 5:20, 11:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE DA VINCI CODE	2 THE DA VINCI CODE		
	3 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 POSEIDON	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 POSEIDON	4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 POSEIDON		
	3 REINCARNATION	4 THE DA VINCI CODE	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	

THE DA VINCI CODE
05.18.06

OPENS TODAY AT ALL AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
Reserve your seat by texting SURESEATS GB3 at 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservation
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18)

AYALA MALLS CINEMAS' THE DA VINCI CODE SCREENING SCHEDULE FOR MAY 18
GLORIETTA 4
Cinema 1** - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Cinema 2 - 11:00 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:20, 8:30
Cinema 3* - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 10:30
Cinema 5 - 12:10 PM, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
Cinema 6 - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 10:00
GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 9:00
Cinema 2 - 12:10 PM, 3:20 PM, 6:30, 9:40
GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30
Onstage - 2:10 PM, 5:20, 8:30
GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 1:40 PM, 4:50, 11:10
Cinema 2* - 1:10 PM, 4:20, 10:40
Cinema 5** - 11:00 AM, 2:10 PM, 5:20, 11:40
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Cinema 1 (THX) - 12:30 PM, 3:40 PM, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Cinema 3 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00
MARKET! MARKET!
Cinema 1 - 11:45 AM, 2:55, 6:05, 7:20, 9:15
Cinema 5 - 12:15 PM, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45
AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cinema 1 - 12:30 PM, 3:10, 6:10
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 2:40, 5:40, 9:00
* THX & Guaranteed Seat Cinema
** Digital Sound & Guaranteed Seat Cinemas
Screening schedules are subject to change without prior notice

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853, from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! 886 7519

GLORIETTA
Asia's Nightingale
LANI MISALUCHA in a Special Concert
May 21, 2006

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
American Idol Superstar Trivia Challenge
May 20, 2006

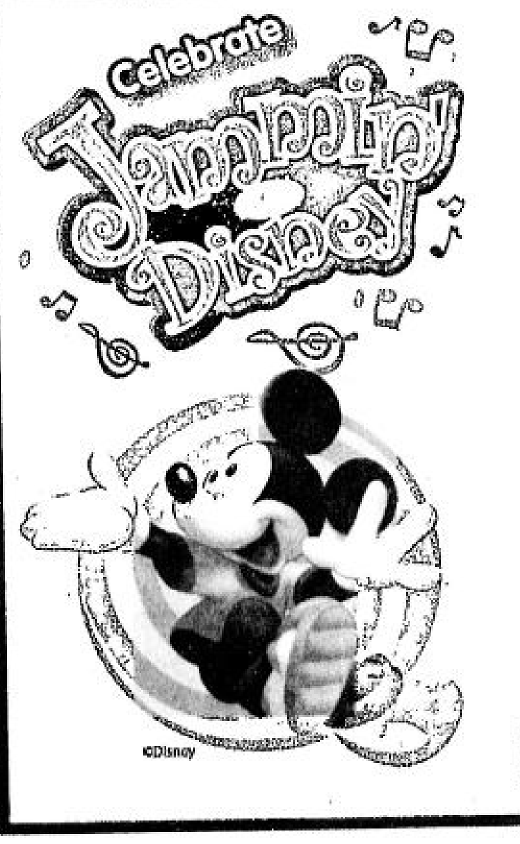
AYALA CENTER CEBU
JAMMIN' with DISNEY
May 18 to 21, 2006

MARKET! MARKET!
Submerged: Fashion Show by Modelo Pilipinas
May 19, 2006

GREENBELT
Dinner Theater presents
"I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT NOW CHANGE"
A Repertory Philippines Production
May 9 & 16, 2006 / 6 pm / Greenbelt 2

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents REPORTORY SUMMER CLASSES at
REP's Globe Theater - May 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 & 29
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Registration is now ongoing for Ayala Museum's
Summer Art Festival Workshop 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc.29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



Come & join
Jumpin' Jam
A Live Musical Meet and Greet show with
Mickey, Minnie, Donald, Goofy, Chip and Dale

glorietta
April 27, 28, 29, & 30, 2006
11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: 752-7272

ALABANG TOWN
May 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2006
May 4 & 5:
12 pm, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, 6 pm
May 6 & 7:
12 pm, 1:30pm, 3:30 pm, 5 pm, 6:30 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline:
842-2782 • 772-1860

MARKET! MARKET!
May 11, 12, 13, & 14, 2006
12 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline: 886 7519

AYALA CENTER CEBU
May 18, 19, 20, & 21, 2006
1 pm, 3 pm, 5 pm, 7 pm
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline:
(032) 231 5342 loc 324

Explore the world of your favorite Disney Characters, Princess Castle, Playhouse Disney, Disney/Pixar's CARS Racetrack, Fairies Enchanted Forest, W.I.T.C.H. The Krandakar Maze from April 27 to May 31!

WHAT'S INSIDE

Meralco gets CPCNs for 11 Metro cities, municipalities /B2

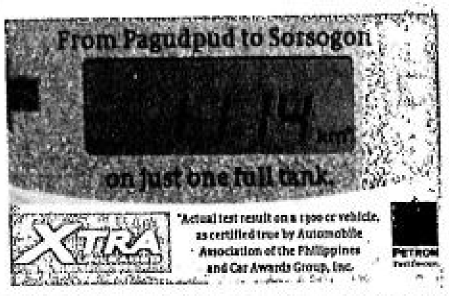
RP expects upgrade in rating to 'positive' /B6

BUSINESS

Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

Text us your feedback: Inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_business@inquirer.com.ph



From Pagudpud to Sorsogon
1,114 km*
on just one full tank.
XTRA
*Actual test result on a 1300 cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.
PETRON

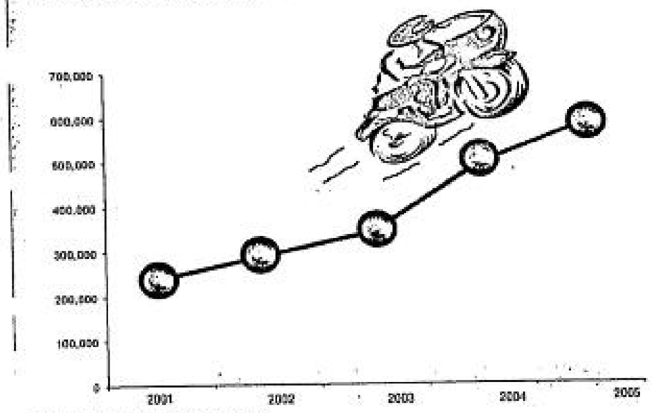
Gov't orders audit of tax credit certificates

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Demand for motorcycles grows * (2001-2005)

For the last five years the sales of motorcycles in the country have been going up. The biggest increase was in 2004 of about 44 percent - 495,400 units were sold compared to 343,036 units in the previous year. The local industry forecasts that the demand for motorcycles in the coming years would reach at least one million units per year.



Source: Land Transportation Office
* Based on LTO's newly registered motorcycles

Chona Galang, PDI Research

BIR blames increased use of TCCs for shortfall

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS ORDERED AN AUDIT OF the volume of tax credit certificates (TCCs) issued by the government and the validity of credits claimed by businesses.

The move was prompted by reports that the Bureau of Internal Revenue's huge tax-collection shortfall in April was partly due to the substantial increase in the use of TCCs by corporate taxpayers.

"We need to know the stock of certificates floating and how this is allocated among taxpayers. We have to improve our database and monitoring system," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a briefing yesterday.

The BIR earlier reported that it collected only P71.3 billion in taxes in April, thus falling short of its P78.6-billion target for the month. The revenue agency said its collection efforts were dampened by the decline in cash remittance of income taxes as many companies used TCCs to settle part of their obligations.

Income tax collection by the BIR stood at only P48.5 billion, or 15-percent short of the P57.3-billion target.

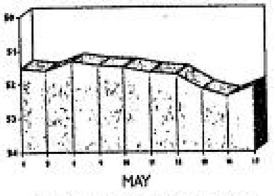
Teves said he has directed concerned agencies like the BIR to make an inventory of all TCCs issued in the past to substantiate claims of an increase in tax-credit claims. He added that an inventory would give authorities a full grasp of how much tax credits should really be recognized by the government.

The BIR has also suggested putting a cap on

GOV'T ORDERS/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.06 = $1

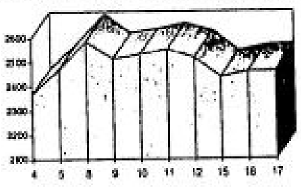
As of 5 p.m., May 17, 2006

¥ 109.17 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 17, 2006

GOLD: $715.70-716.20
per ounce Hong Kong, May 17, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Microsoft bullish on RP, to open Cebu office

By Abigail L. Ho

CONTINUING TO POST STRONG GROWTH in the Philippine market, software giant Microsoft Corp. will be opening a Cebu office in June, its first outside Metro Manila.

The firm's Cebu office would initially have 10-12 employees, Microsoft Philippines managing director Antonio Javier said.

It would be headed by Magtanggol Bawal, previously Microsoft Philippines chief finan-

MICROSOFT/ B2

Gov't privatization chief quits

THE KEY PERSON OVERSEEING THE sale of state-owned assets yesterday tendered his irrevocable and immediate resignation.

Jose A.R. Bengzon III, the government's chief privatization officer, yesterday said he resigned with the intention of going back to the private sector and with the belief that he had already served his purpose in the Privatization Management Office (PMO).

Bengzon, who worked in the banking industry for 25 years, said he wanted to work as a mutual fund or securities fund manager, believed to be a much lucrative job than his previous stint in the PMO.

He worked for the trust and securities sales department of Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) for nine years until 2004.

Bengzon said he believed he already helped institute the needed reforms in the PMO and that the government agency could make substantial progress in the privatization program with the reforms in place.

"An important legacy I left behind was the creation of a master list of all the assets," he told the INQUIRER in an interview. He said the PMO has gotten an audit report and inventory of all state-owned assets that the PMO could privatize, including their market value, thus making it easier for the government to go on with its privatization program.

He said he also instituted the creation of committees for various major state assets being privatized to further boost their chances of being sold.

Under his tenure, the biggest government asset sold was the shares in Philippine National Bank, which were sold to the Lucio Tan group for more than P8 billion. Of the amount, P2 billion went to the national government's

GOV'T/ B2

Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.14-PERcent higher yesterday, supported by a sharp rise in the budget surplus for April which bolstered confidence in the country's fiscal position, dealers said.

Market reaction, however, was relatively muted because investors have already factored in the positive data and remained wary after recent heavy losses in the region, they said.

The composite index was up 3.38 points at 2,463.57 after trading between 2,455.05 and 2,479.02. Volume reached 3.17 billion shares worth P1.63 billion.

SHARES/ B3

An introduction to the power circle. 5

BMW 5 Series

The new BMW 520 Diesel.

- **The advantage of a refined BMW Diesel.**

The BMW 520d delivers remarkably high fuel efficiency through a diesel management system that also offers quieter performance and a reduction in emissions.

- **The soul of a sports car.**

The 520d accelerates at 0 to 100 in 6.7 seconds and delivers 340Nm of pulling power and a top speed of 223 kph.

- **The comfort of a luxury sedan.**

The BMW 520d offers the driving comfort and equipment level typical of the BMW 5 Series.

The new BMW 5 Series. Executive Arrival.

BMW Philippines
www.bmw.com.ph
Sheer Driving Pleasure

Autohaus BMW 104 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 6380734 • Fax (02) 4380419 • **Prestige Cars BMW** 2324 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City • Tel.(02) 8928127 to 29 • Fax (02) 8167325 • **Autozentrum BMW** Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. (02) 7726021 to 24 Fax (02) 772 6025 • **Klassik BMW** 20 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. (02) 7810668 • Fax (02) 7314433 • **Premier Cars BMW** CGIC Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga • Tel. (045) 9637777 • Fax (045) 9633355 • **Performance Auto BMW** Magallanes St. cor. P. Burgos St., Cebu City • Tel.(032) 2563491 • Fax (032) 2563492

Meralco gets CPCNs for 11 Metro cities, municipalities

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY REGULATORY Commission has made permanent the Manila Electric Co.'s 25-year provisional authority to provide electricity services in 11 cities and municipalities within its franchise area.

In an order dated March 23, the regulatory body gave Meralco certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCNs) to provide services in Malabon, Manila, Pasay, Mandaluyong, Quezon City, Caloocan, Makati, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Navotas and San Juan.

The CPCNs are valid for 25 years from the issuance of the provisional authority, or from June 28, 2003, to June 27, 2028.

These allow Meralco to construct, install, operate and maintain electric services in the 11 Metro Manila cities and municipalities.

In handing down the CPCNs, the ERC considered certain indicators from 2002, including the number of power interruptions in the Meralco franchise area, the duration of these interruptions, as well as the distribution utility's investment commitments to improve its service.

According to Meralco documents, which it submitted to the ERC in its application for CPCNs, customers in its franchise area suffered an average of nine interruptions in 2002, with an average duration of 13 hours throughout the year.

Interruptions lasting less than five minutes occurred 21 times that year.

To improve the reliability and quality of its service, Meralco committed P992 million in investments for its Pasay sector for eight years starting 2003. This amount bankrolled the development and expansion of substations in that area.

It also invested or committed to invest P992 million in Pasay, P107.7 million in Mandaluyong, P15.4 million in Malabon, P461.5 million in Manila, P111.9 million in Caloocan, P13.6 million in Navotas, P318.6 million in Parañaque, P386.6 million in Quezon City, P160.4 million in Las Piñas, P692.3 million in Makati, and P7.5 million in San Juan.

These investments are all earmarked for the upgrade and expansion of substations in those areas. Some have already been disbursed, while others are still in the pipeline.

7-11 operator trims losses to P18.6M

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

PHILIPPINE SEVEN CORP., OPerator of the biggest convenience store network in the country, trimmed its net losses to P18.6 million in the January-to-March period due to improved revenues from marketing, franchising and interest on investments.

PSC operates the chain of 7-11 stores in the country.

In a financial report with the Philippine Stock Exchange, PSC said other income—driven largely by franchise revenues—grew 138 percent to P43.3 million in the first quarter.

Total revenues from merchandise sold in the first quarter was slightly higher at P1.09 billion from P1.08 billion in the same period last year.

The growth in revenues in the first quarter pales compared with last year's first-quarter growth of 31 percent. The decline was due to the lower growth in the number of operating stores in the first quarter.

Same-store monthly sales also fell 0.6 percent in the first quarter due to the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, which had affected customers' buying power.

Commission income amounted to P8 million, 21.3 percent lower compared to same period last year. The decline in commissions was due to the proliferation of retailers offering similar products.

Operating expenses in the first quarter reached P395 million, 6.7 percent higher than the P370 million in the same period last year.

Personnel costs, utilities and rentals were still the major expenses of the company.

In the first quarter, PSC ended with 270 stores, a 7-percent increase from last year's 253 stores. During the quarter, 16 stores were renovated.

PSC will open 34 stores in the next few months to complete its target of 50 additional stores this year.

Franchise stores stood at 98, accounting for 36 percent of total operating stores.

MAKE YOUR ₱ GROW

OPEN A 5-YEAR PESO TIME DEPOSIT NOW!
EARN AS HIGH AS 8.5% INTEREST P.A. TAX FREE!

INVESTMENT	*INTEREST RATE
P 50,000 - 99,999.00	7.50%
P 100,000 - 499,999.00	7.75%
P 500,000 - 999,999.00	8.00%
P 1,000,000 - 4,999,999.00	8.25%
P 5,000,000 - UP	8.50%

* RATES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Bank of Commerce
www.bankcom.com.ph

Call us at 812-0000 locals 2250 / 2439 / 2233 / 2465
Member: PDIC & Megalink. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor.

Text Bkcom<yourname><your landline><your e-mail address> send to 2327 for Globe or 0917-8902327 for non-Globe users

Gov't orders . . .

From page B1

the amount of tax credits that any corporate taxpayer can claim for a given tax period.

Merlinda Ordoyo, head of the BIR's Large Taxpayers Service, said the cap could be set at 25 percent of a firm's total tax credits. This means that for any given tax period, a corporate entity can only use 25 percent of its total tax credits as payment for its obligations.

But she said the proposed capping of the use of TCCs still needed approval by the DOF, the BIR's head agency, and the Board of Investments (BOI).

TCCs, which can be used to pay taxes, are instruments issued to companies belonging to industries considered priority by the government, such as the export sector, as a fiscal incentive. These are also issued to firms that have tax refund claims.

Noticing an increase in tax credit claims, Ordoyo said, the BIR was in fact asking some large taxpayers to defer the use of their TCCs because of its adverse impact on tax collection.

She said TCCs could be used within five years upon the date of issue, and could be revalidated for another five years upon request.

"We were personally asking taxpayers to delay the use of TCCs, but of course we did not have any legal backup to force them to do so because claiming tax credits is a right of taxpayers," she said.

Microsoft bullish on RP . . .

From page B1

cial officer and finance manager for the Asia-Pacific region, he said.

He said the decision to open a Cebu office followed the country's consistently good performance compared with other Microsoft units in the region.

For the company's fiscal 2006, which started July 1, 2005, he noted that the Philippine unit posted an "exceptional" performance, with its Windows business growing more than 10 times faster than the personal computer (PC) shipment rate.

Javier said the Philippine arm had become the biggest Microsoft subsidiary in Southeast Asia in terms of revenue, but he declined to give details.

In terms of head count, the local office also grew 80 percent this fiscal year, with Microsoft employees now totaling about 100, he said.

Apart from wanting to support its consistent growth in the Philippines, he said the Microsoft Cebu office would be established to further strengthen the software giant's foothold in the Visayas and Mindanao markets.

"The Visayas and Mindanao markets are very important to our business, definitely contributing to the phenomenal growth that we have had in the current year alone," he said.

"With the competitive Cebu business climate and the many products that Microsoft has and will be releasing in the near future, we thought it best to have a presence to support our customers and partners," he added.

Microsoft currently has around 2,000 partners all over the country, with some of its Microsoft Gold Certified partners based in Cebu.

Gov't privatization . . .

From page B1

coffers while the remaining P6 billion was the share of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Another major asset sold under his tenure was the real property of Manila Gas Corp., which contributed P574 million to the national government. The government was also able to sell some of its real properties in Japan under his leadership.

Other state assets that are in the pipeline of privatization include Al-Amanah Islamic Bank, the former International School property in Makati City, shares in Maynilad Water Services Corp., and broadcast firms RPN-9 and IBC-13.

"It's not easy selling government assets. One has to be creative to be able to think of ways on how to make the assets attractive to buyers," he admitted, but added that he expected other major assets to be sold within the year.

Michelle V. Remo

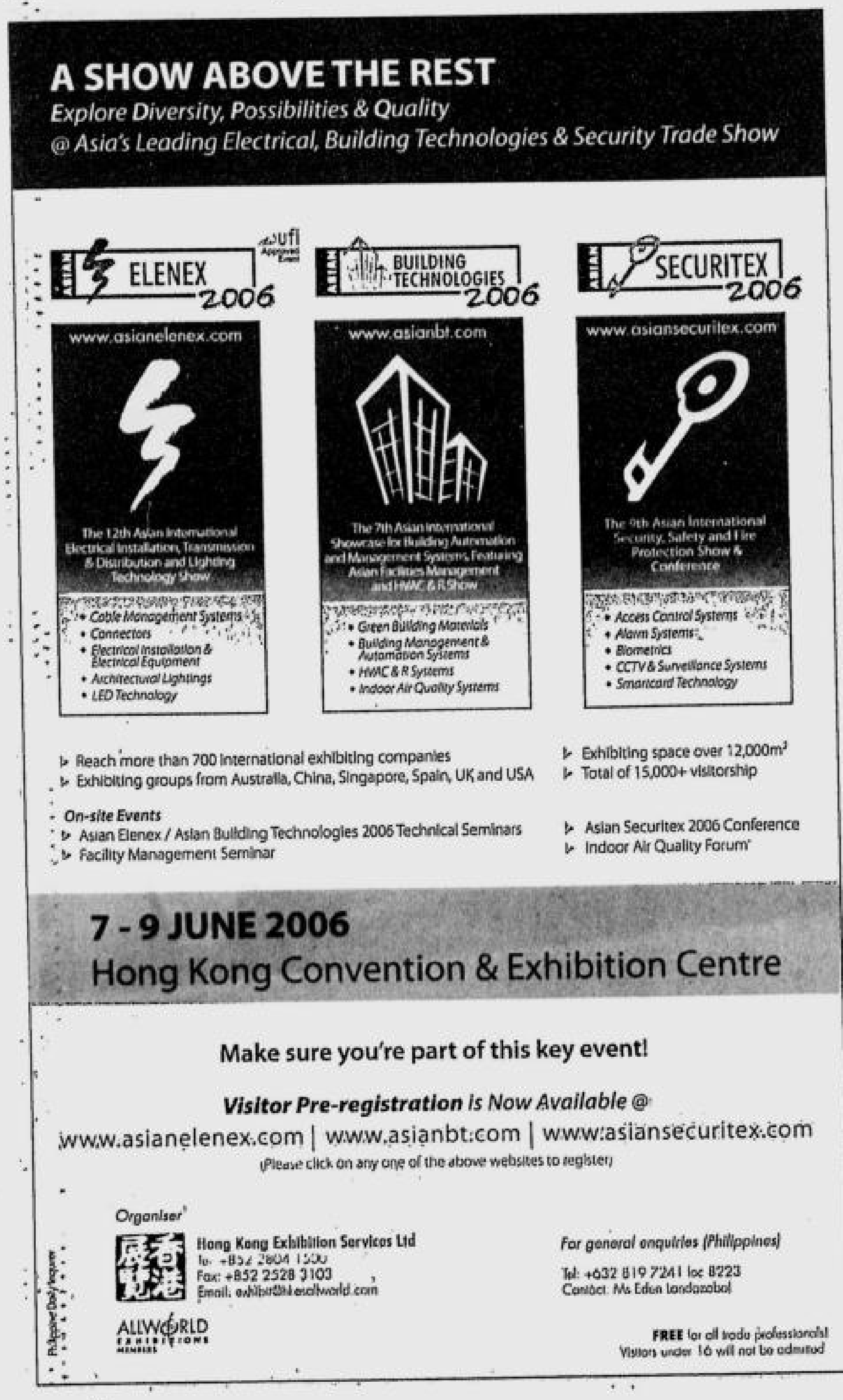
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 17, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	72,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37.5	37.5	36.5	36.5	225,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	67	65.5	66	1,552,900
China Banking Corp.	895	900	895	900	360
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	6,290,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71	72.5	71	72.5	415,900
International Exch. Bank	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	34,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40	40.5	39.5	40	1,032,800
Philippine National Bank	34.5	35.5	34.5	35	24,400
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39.5	39	39.5	65,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18.75	19	18	18	62,700
Security Bank Corp.	56	56	54	56	12,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	2,600
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.74	0.78	0.74	0.78	610,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	60,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3500	3550	3500	3500	510
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1.06	1	1.02	1,730,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2120	2130	2120	2130	550
Ivantage Corp.	1.24	1.26	1.24	1.26	5,056,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	47	47	825,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50	50	49	49	501,900
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14.25	14	14	18,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	21	21	920,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.5	1,581,000
Petron Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.7	2,939,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	177,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	22,000
CADP Group Corp.	3	3	3	3	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	1,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37	37.5	36.5	37	525,500
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.79	310,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	1,038,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	440,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63.5	64	63.5	64	135,500
San Miguel Corp. B	82	82	81	82	74,400
Universal Robina Corp.	22.25	22.25	21.25	21.5	2,591,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	500,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	2,110,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.72	1.76	1.68	1.68	1,518,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2	2	1.9	1.9	89,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.1	5.1	5	5	941,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.92	1.94	1.88	1.88	145,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.125	4,850,000
Picop Resources, Inc.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	1,000,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	1,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.51	690,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	24,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	22,000,000
Ayala Corp.	425	435	425	432.5	161,080
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	828,000
Ajo.Net Holdings, Inc.	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.026	31,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.3	2,273,000
APC Group Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	6,280,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	132,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.12	1.12	2,967,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	70,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.14	1.14	15,756,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	3,071,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.6	3.65	3.55	3.6	750,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	4,857,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.64	500,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.6	7.6	617,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	450,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	28,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	2,300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.65	0.67	0.65	0.67	300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	6,180,000
SM Investments Corp.	244	244	236	236	28,810
South China Resources Inc.	1.18	1.34	1.18	1.24	3,981,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0575	0.06	45,900,000
Wellex Industries, Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,050,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	9,343,000
Belle Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.28	1,474,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	1,300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	340,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.34	2.4	2.34	2.4	2,517,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.76	1.86	1.76	1.8	160,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	5,080,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.035	0.04	0.034	0.04	40,000,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.73	0.66	0.71	4,910,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.58	1.6	3,269,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	300,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	500,000
Interport Res.	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	10,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	57,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	330,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.68	1.7	39,006,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	9,010,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	180,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	36,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.82	515,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.5	8.3	8.4	3,430,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	8,610,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	90,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	29,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.36	26,234,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	995	995	995	995	20,040
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.9	4.1	3.9	4	27,604,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2100	2110	2080	2100	54,420
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.245	0.26	0.24	0.25	3,870,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	2.22	1.9	2.12	5,119,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.05	18,500,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.38	1.52	1.38	1.44	1,820,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.027	0.028	208,100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.15	1,219,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	114,200
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.6	1.6	950,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.63	0.65	0.63	0.64	2,580,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	685,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.42	2.42	947,000
Paxys Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	468,900
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.9	6.3	5.7	5.8	13,379,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6	6.4	5.8	5.9	4,083,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	13,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.2	9.3	8.7	8.7	4,085,000
Benguet Corp. A	13	13	13	13	6,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	32,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	8,040,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.44	0.44	0.41	0.41	31,410,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.028	654,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.032	0.029	0.029	395,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	371,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	9,334,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.2	12,646,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	30	30.5	29.5	29.5	380,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.44	0.45	0.41	0.41	540,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.78	0.78	0.77	0.77	940,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	1,180,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	667,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.013	107,600,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.62	1.66	1.58	1.6	5,999,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.66	1.7	1.6	1.6	1,378,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	17.5	19.25	17.5	18	3,424,600
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17	17	17	17	938,500

CURRENCIES

May 17, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.777786	1.000000	52.3640
Japan	Yen	0.007085	0.009109	0.4770
United Kingdom	Pound	1.468227	98.8475	97.7837
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100320	0.128982	6.7540
Switzerland	Franc	0.644343	0.828432	43.3800
Canada	Dollar	0.702671	0.903424	47.3069
Singapore	Dollar	0.494083	0.635243	33.2639
Australia	Dollar	0.595549	0.765697	40.0950
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.064189	2.653928	138.9703
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207492	0.266773	13.9693
Brunei	Dollar	0.492519	0.633232	33.1586
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000109	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020468	0.026316	1.3780
UAE	Dirham	0.211787	0.272294	14.2584
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.285700	66.3244
Argentina	Peso	0.255851	0.328947	17.2250
Brazil	Real	0.362098	0.465549	24.3780
Denmark	Kroner	0.134120	0.172438	9.0295
India	Rupee	0.017265	0.022198	1.1624
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216052	0.277778	14.5456
Mexico	New Peso	0.070443	0.090569	4.7426
New Zealand	Dollar	0.484783	0.623286	32.6377
Norway	Kroner	0.127580	0.164029	8.5892
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012956	0.016658	0.8723
South Africa	Rand	0.122193	0.157104	8.2266
Korea	Won	0.000823	0.001058	0.0554
Sweden	Kroner	0.106348	0.136732	7.1598
Syria	Pound	0.014983	0.019264	1.0087
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024552	0.031566	1.6529
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.000362	0.000466	0.0244


A SHOW ABOVE THE REST
Explore Diversity, Possibilities & Quality
@ Asia's Leading Electrical, Building Technologies & Security Trade Show

ASIAN ELENEX 2006
www.asianelenex.com
The 12th Asian International Electrical Installation, Transmission & Distribution and Lighting Technology Show
- Cable Management Systems
- Connectors
- Electrical Installation & Electrical Equipment
- Architectural Lightings
- LED Technology

ASIAN BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES 2006
www.asianbt.com
The 7th Asian International Showcase for Building Automation and Management Systems, Featuring Asian Facilities Management and HVAC & R Show
- Green Building Materials
- Building Management & Automation Systems
- HVAC & R Systems
- Indoor Air Quality Systems

ASIAN SECURITEX 2006
www.asiansecuritex.com
The 9th Asian International Security, Safety and Fire Protection Show & Conference
- Access Control Systems
- Alarm Systems
- Biometrics
- CCTV & Surveillance Systems
- Smartcard Technology

- Reach more than 700 international exhibiting companies
- Exhibiting groups from Australia, China, Singapore, Spain, UK and USA
- Exhibiting space over 12,000m²
- Total of 15,000+ visitorship

On-site Events
- Asian Elenex / Asian Building Technologies 2006 Technical Seminars
- Facility Management Seminar
- Asian Securitex 2006 Conference
- Indoor Air Quality Forum

7 - 9 JUNE 2006
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

Make sure you're part of this key event!

Visitor Pre-registration is Now Available @
www.asianelenex.com | www.asianbt.com | www.asiansecuritex.com
(Please click on any one of the above websites to register)

Organiser
Hong Kong Exhibition Services Ltd
Tel: +852 2804 1500
Fax: +852 2528 3103
Email: exhibit@hkesallworld.com
ALLWORLD EXHIBITIONS MEMBER

For general enquiries (Philippines)
Tel: +632 819 7241 loc 8223
Contact: Ms Eden Landazabal

FREE for all trade professionals!
Visitors under 16 will not be admitted

C&P Homes posts 68% profit jump

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOUSING DEVELOPer C&P Homes Inc. said it posted a 68-percent jump in its first-quarter net income to P37 million for P22 million a year ago due to lower costs.

In a disclosure filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange, C&P Homes said the profit growth was mainly due to the decline in interest expenses to P13 million from P21 million last year.

Streamlining measures likewise reduced costs and expenses to P235 million this year from P241 million last year, the company added.

However, net sales were flat at P225 million from last year's P227 million.

Interest income and miscellaneous income grew 7 percent due to an increase in collectibles from installment contracts, better collection efficiency and higher income from administrative fees related to housing.

C&P Homes recently raised its authorized capital stock to P7 billion from P5 billion. The new capital consists of 7 billion common shares with a par value of P1. The capital build-up forms part of the housing firm's capital and debt restructuring program.

It was also aimed at enticing creditors to convert a portion of their claims into equity.

C&P Homes said it was trying to restructure $150 million in floating rate notes. Although the basic terms of the plan have been laid out, certain implementing details were still to be confirmed and finalized.

C&P Homes said it continued to settle some of its obligations through the sale of real estate properties and certain assets. It has also entered into swapping deals and joint-venture arrangements with its business partners to service some operating requirements.

Shares ...

From page B1

The broader all-shares index was down 1.04 points at 1,526.42.

Advancers led decliners 53 to 48, with 45 stocks unchanged.

The government said the budget surplus grew to P17.6 billion in April from P3.3 billion in the same month last year, thanks to increased revenue collection and reduced expenses. *(See story on Page A1.)*

"Psychologically, the positive fiscal numbers have been ... in the market's performance," said Harry Liu of Summit Securities.

Top-traded Ayala Land advanced 50 centavos to P14.75 while its parent Ayala Corp. gained P12.50 to P432.50.

PLDT ended down P10 at P2,100. Its unit Piltel gained 20 centavos to P4. *AFP*

CONGRATULATIONS
BDO Rewards
WINNERS!

The Grand Prize Winner receives P20,000 worth of gift checks monthly for a year. *From L-R:* Edith D. Dychiao *(VP-Marketing Communications Group)*; Gerry D. Diaz *(SVP-Branch Banking Group)*; Marvin Agustin; Jimmy C. Yu *(EVP-Branch Banking Group)*; Atty. Bienvenido Quinones; Nestor V. Tan *(President- BDO)*; Jethro Dionisio; and David Charlton

Time to Reap Your Rewards and Shop-All Year Round

There are many happy returns when you bank with BDO. After letting us find ways for their banking needs, these winners were awarded with SM gift checks for an ALL-YEAR FREE SHOPPING SPREE.

BANKING HAS NEVER BEEN THIS REWARDING !

LIST OF WINNERS:

GRAND PRIZE
₱20,000 monthly for 1 year
1. Bienvenido O. Quiñones

FIRST PRIZE
₱10,000 monthly for 1 year
1. Leonila Q. Lescano
2. Ma. Cecilia T. Cruzabra
3. Eric Chua
4. Manuel J. Batayola Jr.
5. Armi C. Sze

SECOND PRIZE
₱5,000 monthly for 1 year
1. Zhangyong Wu
2. Prakash Chandani
3. Dennis C. Go
4. Adelina A. Ferrer
5. Wilberto E. Camama
6. Eugene N. Lu
7. Wanqing Chen
8. Marie Joy E. Bislig
9. Judy D. Ong
10. Jerry Villafuerte

The 5 First Prize Winners each receives P10,000 in gift checks monthly for a year.

The 10 Second Prize winners each receives P5,000 in gift checks monthly for a year.

Winners enjoying great shopping at SM Supermarket and more shopping at SM Department Store

BDO Rewards

We find ways

For BDO Rewards program details, contact the BDO Call Center at 631-8000, Domestic Toll Free # 1-800-10-631-8000 or visit any Banco de Oro Branch near you. Points system is subject to the terms and conditions of the BDO Rewards program. Per DTI NCR Permit Number 2878, Series of 2005.

be bold, not bald.

You can win the war against MPHL or Male Pattern Hair Loss. Through the years, a big proportion of the male population has been found to have increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp. It disrupts the normal cycle of hair growth, leaving thousands of men with wounded confidence even at an early age.

JOIN THE REVOLUTION.

BUT YOU CAN FIGHT IT. Research indicates that seeking **early medical treatment** can slow down continued hair loss and assist in the normal growth of your hair³.

Ask your dermatologist about the **Hair Fitness Program.** You can help restore your normal hair cycle and win the war against this menace called MPHL.

THE NORMAL HAIR CYCLE⁴

HELP RESTORE YOUR NORMAL HAIR GROWTH CYCLE
For more information on the ProHAIR Fitness Program call hotline number 878-6338.
You may also send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email:inquire@prohair-info.com
ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society

ProHAIR™

References : 1. Dallob A. Sadick N. Unger W. et al. Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism 1994; 79:703-706 2. Dawber R. and Van Neste D. Hair and Scalp Disorders: Common Presenting Signs, Differential Diagnosis and Treatment. Martin Dunitz Limited 1995, Singapore. 3. Kaufman K. European Journal of Dermatology 2002; 12., 38-49 4. Shapiro J. Hair Loss: Principles of Diagnosis and Management of Alopecia. Martin Dunitz Limited, 1995, Singapore.

03-2007-PPC-06-PH-5002-AD (B)

Salud Oliveros-Lustre

(UP Law Class of 1935 and wife of the late Judge Julian E. Lustre)

Passed on peacefully to eternal life
on May 16; 2006 at the age of 94.

Her children, **Jose** and **Delia Melliza** (Pong and Del), **Alicia** (Tita), **Aurora** and **Deogracias Estrella Jr.** (Baby and Bong); her grandchildren, **Maridel, Rose, Anne,** and **Lynne Lustre, Mia** and **Rico Azicate, Rachel** and **Jojo Clemente, Macky Estrella, Cookie** and **Aldo Gonzales,** and her great grandchildren, **Samantha, Jessica,** and **Gabriel;** her living sister, brother and in-laws **Aurea** and **Horacio Velazco** (Auring and Acio), **Angel** and **Virginia Centeno** (Angel and Virgie), thank and request prayers from relatives and many friends who brought her laughter and deep joy, comfort in illness and spiritual resolve, in her long and selfless journey in this life.

Her remains lie at the mortuary of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Church located at Daily Mirror corner Bulletin St., West Triangle, Quezon City. The funeral mass will be held at 10:00 AM on Sunday, May 21, 2006. Cremation will follow at the Loyola Crematorium at 1:00 PM. Interment will take place at the mortuary of the parish church immediately after cremation.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the
GAWAD KALINGA school for children will be appreciated.

"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope." – **Psalm 62:6**

JOSE A. ALARCA

of Tanza, Cavite and Batangas City

Peacefully joined his Creator on Tuesday,
16th of May 2006 at the age of 68.

His beloved wife **Lourdes Aquino Alarca**; children **Rosalind, Jovie** and **Colet, Grace** and **Elmer, Vicky, Papong** and **Joanne**; grandchildren **JB, Josanne, Jianna** and **Jego**; sisters **Fely** and **Enie**; brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request fervent prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mortuary, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Batangas City.

Interment will take place on Saturday, 20 May 2006 following the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

ENGINEER

ALFREDO "PEDONG" ALDABA

OF MALOLOS, BULACAN
OCTOBER 6, 1921 - MAY 17, 2006

HIS BELOVED WIFE ATRING, CHILDREN FREDDIE & MARGIE, DIGNA & KENNETH, EDITHA, NANDING & FITA, GRANDCHILDREN RYAN, MARI, MIKA, LU, PAE, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS REQUEST THE PIOUS READERS TO PRAY FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.

HIS REMAINS LIE IN THE STATE AT THE LOURDES CHURCH, Q.C. CHAPEL FROM MAY 17 TO 19, 2006 AND AT SABITAN, MALOLOS, BULACAN FROM MAY 19 TO 20, 2006.

INTERMENT WILL BE ON MAY 20, 2006 AT THE MALOLOS CATHOLIC CEMETERY AFTER THE 2:00PM MASS AT THE MALOLOS CATHEDRAL.

Our Dearly Beloved

CECILIO DOMINGO OBISPO

Now peacefully rests in the infinite
Grace and Goodness of the Lord at the age of 72.

His wife **Rizalina**, children **Ma. Carmela & Jesus Antonio, Juan Carlos,** grandchildren **Jeremy Michael, Jessica Marie** and **Jamie Margaret,** Relatives and Friends request the Pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel O, Guadalupe, Makati City and will be moved to Loyola Memorial Park Marikina, May 20, 2006 at 11:00 am.

Funeral Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapel O, Guadalupe, Makati City at 9:00am, May 20, 2006.

"There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day."
2 Timothy 4:8

HUDSON O. CHUA

(July 11, 1966 – May 13, 2006)

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 13, 2006
at the age of 39.

His mother **Chua Shong Hui**; loving wife **Aurora**; children **Alec Jayson, Jana Alyson & Kobe Bryson**; brothers and sisters, brothers- & sisters-in-law, aunts, nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in prayers for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Necrological service will be held on May 19, 2006, Friday, 3:00 p.m. at the chapel.

Interment is on May 20, 2006, Saturday at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City at 9:00 a.m.

JOSE V. PURA

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 16, 2006 at the age of 82.

His bereaved children **Noel, Raul & Pita, Aida & Freddie, Mariam & Alfred, Jojie & Resty, Joel & Arlette, grandchildren** and **relatives** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at **Sta. Rita de Casia Parish, South Lawin Ave., Philam Homes, Quezon City.**

Cremation will take place on **Saturday, May 20, 2006** after the 9:00 am Mass at **Loyola Crematory, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.**

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE : 897-8808
loc. 514, 516;
899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425
(Telefax)
CUBAO : 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI : 892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370
KALAW : 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL : 635-0219; 635-0220

CLASSIFIEDS

FREE B.A. RAPIZ REVIEW FOR TOP 10% GRADUATES
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF SAN JUAN
www.stmarycollege.net
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
NURSING
Accepting Applications to All Year Levels!
School Year 2006-07
(Classes begin June 26, 2006)
Transfer Students
SHALL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT OTHER SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO OUR EVALUATION AND REVIEW
No. 11 J. de Mesa, San Juan
721-8938 to 39

FOR SALE
2006 Hyundai Getz 1.1L brand new plus 3yrs reg. & compre ins. @ P420K net only. 0917-531-47-59 • 524-38-83 • 942-06-06

HOUSE 'N LOT 4 SALE
WORTH 1.2 MILLION
100 SQUARE METER • LAND
1490 Enteror Doctor Sixto Ave., Maybunga, Pasig
w/ business permit
2 door, clear title
Person to be contacted:
Roger Recor
0919-2917021

BUY*SELL*PAWN
WATCHES
JEWELRY
HIGHEST APPRAISAL
8040484/8342886

WE BUY
at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2
5646593 5897041
0917-8473744

CALL
POEA
24-HOUR HOTLINES
722-1144 or
722-1155

More
CLASSIFIED ADS
on pages
A14 & B5

wistron
Innovation Integrity

Wistron InfoComm(Phil.) Corp.
based in Subic Bay is in urgent need of high caliber individuals to join our team.

SUPPLIER QUALITY MANAGER
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering course;
- Familiar on Notebook and PC product engineering analysis;
- At least four (4) years related work experience in Eng'g management specifically in plant production;
- Excellent communication skills.

PRODUCTION CONTROL SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of any Business related course preferably with masters in Business Administration;
- Familiar on market information & computer application operation;
- Must have related work experience in material planning and procurement specifically Computer manufacturing;
- Excellent communication skills.

PRODUCT ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering course;
- Familiar on Notebook and PC product engineering analysis;
- Must have related work experience in plant production Eng'g;
- Excellent communication skills.

Interested applicants may directly apply and / or submit their resume to the address indicated below:

Wistron InfoComm (Philippines), Corporation
Human Resources Department
#4 Rizal Hi-way corner Aim High Avenue
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Telephone No. (047) 252-77-40 ; Fascimile: (047) 2526223

WHERE
YOU FIND
THE BEST.

JOB Market
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **HL DOORS FACTORY CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Export Producer of Wooden Doors and Accessories** with an annual capacity of **139,968 pcs.** on a Non-Pioneer Status with project site located at **Barangay Panipuan, Mexico, Pampanga.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

Industry & Investments Building,
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632) 897-6682 Fax No.: (632) 895-3521 (IPG)
(632) 895-3981 (IG) (632) 895-3978 (TSG)
(632) 890-3051 (AD)
E-mail OSAC@boi.gov.ph Homepage: http://www.boi.gov.ph
Cable address: INVESTBOARD P.O. Box 1872 Makati
(PDI - May 18, 2006)

Agents get together to give kids new lease on life

Gift of Life grants free heart surgery to less fortunate children

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

JOHN WAYNE VILLANUEVA looked as healthy as any other seven-year old boy. But unlike his playmates, he tired easily and had difficulty breathing because he had problems with his heart.

But thanks to the "Gift of Life" program that financed his heart surgery, he now runs around and plays as hard as his friends.

He is one of the growing number of poor Filipino children touched by the "Gift of Life" program supported by the Western Union Foundation.

These children, most of whom have congenital heart problems, were able to get operated on for free largely due to the combined effort of the four local agents of Western Union.

They raised as much funds as they could to support the surgeries, and every dollar they raised was matched by Western Union Foundation.

In the first collection last December, the agents raised $62,000 on their own, bringing the first fund to $124,000, which was enough to cover 62 operations at an average cost of $2,000 each.

The cost is limited to the medicine and the diagnostic procedures because the doctors and the hospitals usually extend their services for free as part of the "Gift of Life" program.

GIFT GIVERS. From left: Patricia Riingen of Western Union, GOL beneficiary Dean Jeremy Tabanero, Western Union marketing manager Chelo Trapaga, and Gift of Life International chair Robert Donno.

In caring for these sick children with no hope of raising the money on their own, Petnet, EBiz Financial Services, M. Lhuillier and Universal Storefront Services are no longer competitors, but firm partners.

Western Union Philippines country director Patricia Riingen says it is only in the Philippines where the different agents work together on common projects.

Aside from the Gift of Life, for instance, the agents again got together and pledged $100,000 to help the landslide victims in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte.

The money will be used to build schools outside the hard-hit areas to encourage relocation to places in the province that are less prone to deadly landslides.

In other countries, the agents work on their own individual programs, which are nevertheless supported by Western Union Foundation.

Beneficiaries

The foundation was attracted to the Gift of Life project first broached by Lorenzo T. Ocampo of Petnet because it is not only the child who benefits from the heart surgery, but the family as well.

"When a child gets sick, everybody gets affected," Riingen says. "The parents do not get to work and the expenses for other children are diverted to the sick child."

"That is why these operations make a real difference in the lives of the family," Riingen adds.

She adds that there is such a sense of fulfillment when the people involved learn that the operations went on smoothly and that the children were well on their way to recovery.

It takes about 30 days for the children to recover fully from their major open-heart surgeries, although they are up and about way before then with huge smiles on their and their family's faces.

The Rotary Club of Makati West, which started the program, takes care of screening the candidates for the free medical services.

The children should be certified as having a life threatening sickness and in dire need of financial support for them to qualify for the "Gift of Life" program.

Riingen says Western Union in the Philippines is exploring the possibility of tapping the Filipino expatriate community in other countries, such as in Singapore, for funds to expand the "Gift of Life" program.

"Basically, we are looking at how Filipinos abroad would be able to help here and give back to the community," Riingen says.

Western Union knows its market abroad intimately since the bulk of its clients are Filipinos working overseas sending part of their money back to their loved ones in the Philippines.

Financial literacy

Western Union estimates that nine of 10 of its transactions involve money coming in to the Philippines, as opposed to going out.

Riingen says another project that Western Union is looking to support is one involving improving financial literacy of the OFWs.

This is to make sure that the hard-earned money of Filipinos overseas are put to good use in the Philippines, rather than squandered.

Western Union realizes that it is vital for Filipinos to be more financially responsible considering that the Philippines is the third biggest receiver of remittances from abroad.

Studies show that as many as 2,700 Filipinos leave to work abroad every day.

Riingen says Western Union participates in the pre-departure seminars organized by the government to help give them an idea of what to expect when they start working abroad.

While that program is being developed, Western Union in the Philippines looks forward to continue being part of the program to give less fortunate Filipinos a new lease on life.

As Samuel and Elaine, John Wayne's parents, say, they are truly indebted to the Gift of Life for saving their son's life.

"I hope that they continue with their program so that they can help more people," Samuel says in Filipino.

7.0% FIXED GUARANTEED TAX FREE

Open a PSBank Prime Time Deposit now!

- Affordable for a minimum of PhP 50,000
- 5-year placement
- Enjoy monthly interest earnings

* Quoted rate is on a per annum basis and subject to change without prior notice.

Get it now at any PSBank branch.

PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT

Text PSBANK PRIME <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000

FIGARO IN SHANGHAI For the past year, Figaro Coffee Corp. has been teaching tea-drinking Chinese to appreciate Philippine coffee.

Banks given more time to clean up Dosri loans

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD HAS GIVEN BANKS more time to clean up their portfolio of loans and other credit extended to directors, officers and related interests (Dosri), which are not backed by collateral.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a statement yesterday that its policy-making body had approved the extension for another year, or up to April 9, 2007, of the transitory provisions of a two-year old circular that tightened the rules and regulations on Dosri.

Under the transitory provisions, sanctions for noncompliance with the Dosri rules shall not apply to outstanding loans, other credit accommodations and guarantees previously not considered as Dosri accounts for two years.

Banks were also allowed not to deduct unsecured Dosri accounts from their capital accounts for two years.

The transitory provisions would have expired last April 9, but the BSP said the deadline was extended to "provide banks with more time within which to manage their portfolio of secured Dosri loans, other credit accommodations and guarantees."

The General Banking Law of 2000 limits banks' Dosri exposure to an amount equivalent to the borrowers' deposits and book value of their paid-in contribution in the bank.

This is as long as unsecured loans and other Dosri credit accommodations and guarantees do not exceed 15 percent of its total loan portfolio or 100 percent of its net worth, whichever is lower.

Previously, the BSP tightened the Dosri guidelines to curb excessive credit exposure that could trigger bank failures.

Specifically, the MB expanded the coverage of Dosri lendings, particularly with regards to "related interests" and likewise imposed stiff sanctions against violators.

One of the sanctions identified by the BSP is the restriction or prohibition on the bank from declaring dividends until the outstanding loans and other credit accommodations had been reduced within the prescribed ceilings.

With the tighter regulations, the BSP wants big borrowers to instead tap the domestic capital market to secure their funding requirements.

Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 30, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 24, 2005
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2005
5. Approval of the 2005 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment to the Amended By-Laws (transfer of the position, powers and duties of the Chairman of the Board in Sections 6.1 and 6.3, Article VI captioned "Officers" to Section 5.4, Article V captioned "Board of Directors")
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 25, 2005 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of May 2, 2006 will be entitled to notice and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2006. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 26, 2006, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 24, 2006

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF PEZA FORMS
(2nd & 3rd Quarter 2006)

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 2,663436.71 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of PEZA Forms. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS:

PARTICULARS	QUANTITY (pads)
Form No. 8101 - Import Permit	6,875
Form No. 8104 - Export Tally	8,300
Form No. 8105 - Application for Permit to Bring Goods from the Customs Territory into the Zone	5,200
Form No. 8106 - Application for Permit to Bring Goods from the Zone into the Customs Territory	11,600
Form No. 8110 - Application to Withdraw Goods from the Zone for Sample Purposes	1,100
Form No. 8112 - Application for Permit to Sell Ecozone Made Goods Within the Ecozone	1,660
Authority to Withdraw	4,785
Boat Notes	6,235

Delivery of the GOODS is required within thirty (30) calendar days from the date receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5::00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 11 to 26 May 2006, 8:00 a.m. to 5::00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of a DBM-GEPS Certification as a registered supplier/contractor and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos Only (PhP 2,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 01 June 2006 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building III, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 15 June 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC*. Late Bids shall not be accepted
8. Bid opening shall be on 15 June 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg III Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders..

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F PEZA Building III Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 11 & 18, 2006)

GCash and RBAP strengthen mobile banking partnership

Making countryside m-commerce possible (fr L-R): RBAP-MABS Senior MIS Manager Anthony Petalcorin, Microfinance and Banking Specialist Lyndon Paul Soresca, Chief of Party John Owens, USAID Office of Economic Development and Governance Head Robert Wuertz, RBAP president (Ret. Gen.) William Holchkiss III, G-Xchange, Inc. Business Development Head for Government and Financial Institutions Trina Ycasiano, Head for Government and Financial Institutions Gigi Gayoso, Project RBAP consultant Apple Solis, G-Xchange, Inc. President Rizza Maniego-Eala, Globe Telecom Head of Sales and Distribution Joey Mendoza, and RBAP-MAPS MIS Specialist Nixon Mahilum.

GCash makes mobile banking history once more! Following the successful rollout of Text-A-Payment, a pioneering mobile micro-finance service that enables the remote payment of monthly loan amortizations, G-Xchange, Inc. (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom) expands its longstanding partnership with the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines (RBAP) and its USAID-supported Microenterprise Access to Banking Services (MABS) Program, with the implementation of the service's cash-in and cash-out or Palitan Center transactions in select member banks.

In a move recently approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, RBAP member banks can now be accredited as GCash Palitan Centers. This BSP endorsement has enabled partner rural banks to facilitate domestic money transfers and international remittance transactions through the GCash service platform. This platform also allows them to accept mobile payments for any GCash partner institution, such as utility companies, insurance firms, schools and retail merchants.

The real-time capabilities and transactional mobility of GCash make it an ideal mobile banking channel for rural banks and their clients. This is particularly convenient for micro and small-scale entrepreneurs who no longer have to travel for banking transactions as they can now even pay their bills, buy and sell products and services, and perform cash-in or cash-out transactions at a nearby GCash accredited rural bank. Banks, on the other hand, get to minimize costs and derive additional revenue from GCash driven payment and remittance transactions.

According to G-Xchange, Inc. President, Rizza Maniego-Eala, these new services offered to Rural Banks in the Philippines are further proof of GCash's steadfast commitment to uplifting the Filipino way of life through empowering m-commerce services. "We are working towards making GCash increase its contribution to the greater task of nationbuilding by giving the public greater access to commercial and financial transactions -- through the convenience of a simple text message while ensuring security and reliability," states Eala.

RBAP Partners in Development

To date, twenty-four prominent RBAP member banks representing 185 outlets nationwide have been accredited as GCash partners. These include Agri-Business Bank, Bangko Kabayan, Bangko Luzon, Bangko Mabuhay, Bank of Florida, Cantilan Bank, FICO Bank, First Community Bank, First Macro Bank, 1st Valley Bank, Gateway Business Bank, GM Bank, Greenbank, PRBank, Rang-Ay Bank, Rural Bank of San Enrique, Rural Bank of Abucay, Rural Bank of Cauayan, Rural Bank of Cotabato, Rural Bank of Jaen, Rural Bank of Victorias, Saranggani Rural Bank, Upland Rural Bank of Dalaguete and New Zambales Rural Bank.

RBAP partners can look forward to more GCash possibilities in the near future, such as remote deposit capability, which allows clients to make deposits to their bank account anytime, anywhere! Such deposit transactions have successfully undergone pilot testing, and full rollout is expected upon approval by BSP.

For inquiries on how to become an accredited GCash partner merchant, interested rural banks may contact RBAP at (02) 527-2968/72 or send an e-mail to *info@rbap.org*.

TM GCASH Globe

BANKING PARTNERS

Agri-Business Bank
Banko Kabayan
Bangko Luzon, Inc.
Bangko Mabuhay
Bank of Florida
Bank Victorias
Cantilan Bank
FICO Bank
First Community Bank, Inc.
First Macro Bank
Gateway
GM Bank
Greenbank
PRBank
Rang-Ay Bank
RB of San Enrique
Rural Bank of Abucay (Bataan) Inc.
Rural Bank of Cotabato
Rural Bank of Jaen, Inc.
Saranggani Rural Bank
Upland Rural Bank of Dalaguete

RP expects upgrade in rating to 'positive'

Government banking on VAT collection

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES EXPECTS CREDIT RATING agencies to upgrade their sovereign credit rating on the Philippines to "positive" from "stable" by the last quarter of this year or early next year.

A "positive" outlook means that the Philippine government—currently rated at two notches below investment grade by Fitch, three notches below by Standard & Poor's and four notches below by Moody's—has a big chance of getting a credit rating upgrade in two years.

"As long as there's no fiscal slippage, that's the key (to a positive outlook)," Renato Pizarro, the government's chief investor relations officer, said yesterday after meeting with a visiting mission from S&P.

"All the indicators that are coming out are positive and there are no controversial issues on the political front," he said.

A sovereign credit rating reflects the agencies' view on the ability and willingness of a government to meet its debt obligations in full and on time.

Pizarro said it was too soon to expect an immediate revision in sovereign credit rating outlook after this particular visit from S&P, noting the Philippines would still have to establish a trend of good value added tax collections.

"We have to show more resolve on the fiscal sector," he said.

Asked when the Philippines was likely to see a further improvement in debt rating outlook, Pizarro said: "Maybe toward the end of this year or early next year."

He said a revision in the outlook to positive would be inevitable once the government sustains VAT revenue collections for nine months.

He said this would indicate whether the full-year targets would be met.

"In the first few months, our deficit numbers were good. It's a good anchor for saying that probably, we'll be more confident that down the road, we'll meet our fiscal targets. The most critical is the VAT collection," he explained.

16 Mindanao cities improve service delivery, experts say

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—AT LEAST 16 MINdanao cities under the Transparent and Accountable Governance (TAG) project funded by the Asia Foundation and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have reported a significant improvement in their delivery of services.

During the second conference held here last week, officials of the TAG cities said they have recorded a notable improvement in their market and terminal operations, business tax administration, health, and procurement systems.

The TAG project implemented by the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) aims to promote transparency and accountability through reforms in beneficiary-cities.

It has been going on for the past seven months in the cities of Zamboanga, Ozamiz, Oroquieta, Malaybalay, Koronadal, Tacurong, General Santos, Surigao, Iligan, Samal, Dapitan, Butuan, Dipolog, Panabo, Marawi and Cotabato.

Zamboanga City, for example, posted a 295.03 percent increase in revenues from about P995,000 last year to P29.5 million this year when they implemented reforms.

The procedural reforms undertaken included the reduction in the number of hours for business permits and licensing processing, introduction of a one-stop shop business processing, printing of procedural handbooks and "other client-friendly innovations."

Dapitan, which focused on improving its public market and bus terminal, reported a 27 percent increase in revenue collection.

General Santos, the first of the 16 TAG cities to print a procedural handbook, has reported positive results in its management of the General Santos City Hospital. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

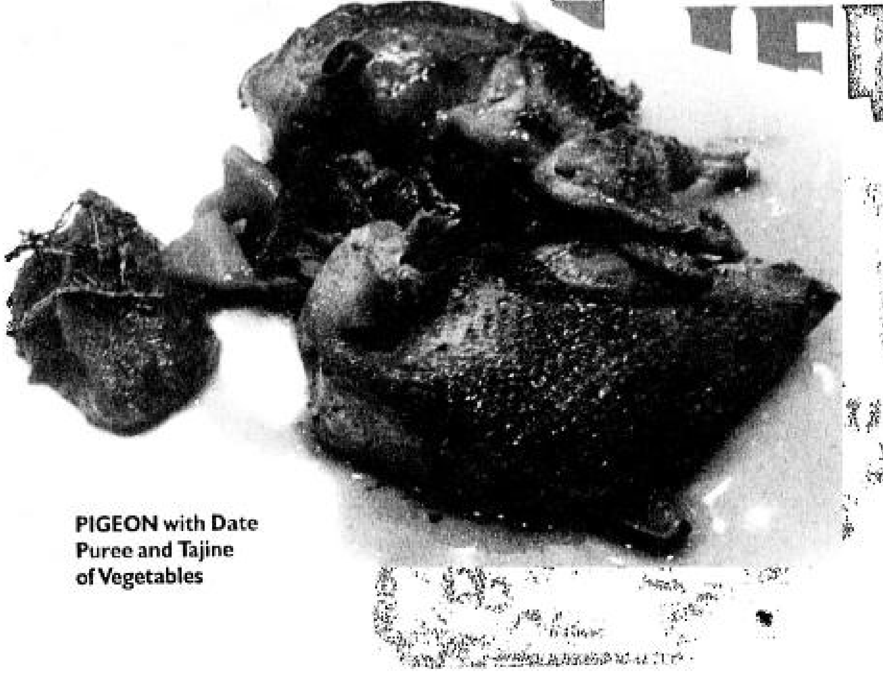
EXPEDITION
FOR THE CREME DE LA CREME DE LA CREME DE LA CREME
Ford

The Ford 2006 Expedition Eddie Bauer. Unparalleled power, style and luxury in a fullsize SUV. See it at any Ford dealer nationwide.

• Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines 842-3681 / 842-4628, Fax No: 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line. 927-9648, Fax No. 927-5981 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel Nos: 952-9118; 952-9441; 952-9446 Fax No. 952-9440 • Ford EDSA Greenhills, Tel. No.: 744-2222; Fax No.: 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel. No: 723-7029 • Ford Libis, Trunk Line. 637-2044, Fax No 637-6008 • Ford Global City, Trunkline: 860-8888, Fax No 818-5000 • Ford Manila, Tel. No.: 562-5555 Fax No. 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel Nos 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line: 717-0888; Telefax. 717-1390 • Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line (045) 961-2888, Fax Nos: (045) 963-5205 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel No (044) 464-0111; Fax No: (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel. No.: (075) 522-2222, Telefax: (075) 515-5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel. No.: (049) 562-9186; Telefax (049) 562-8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel No (046) 472-2040; Fax: (046) 472-2048 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line (032) 231-9180, Fax No.: (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel No.: (034) 432-2151, Telefax: (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel. No.: (033) 321-3352; Telefax No.: (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel. No.: (088) 855-8811; Telefax: (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel. No.: (082) 234-1111; Fax No.: (082) 234-2222 • Ford Credit, Tel. No.: 635-1251

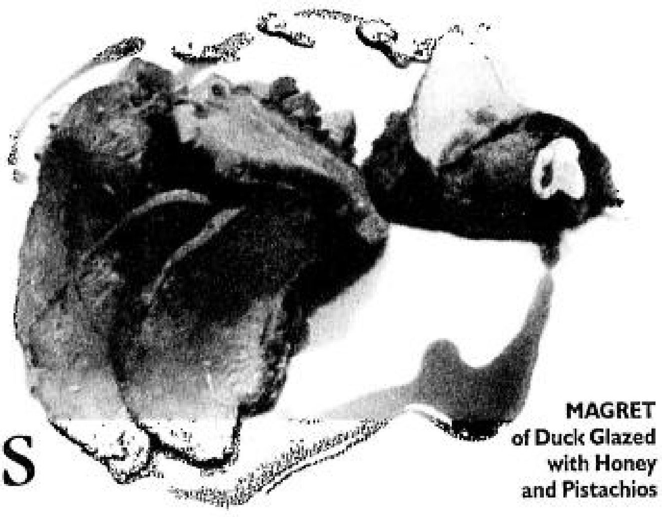
www.ford.com.ph

LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
ne to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
NESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



PIGEON with Date Puree and Tajine of Vegetables

Cooking is truly
about leaving
a piece of one's self
in his food, the food
becoming him and
he, his food



MAGRET of Duck Glazed with Honey and Pistachios

Masters serve a symphony of flavors

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

PLEASE ENLIGHTEN ME. WHAT IS A Michelin star chef?

MARIO

Here, Mario, is Part 2 of the May 11 column and the answer to your question.

The first Michelin Guide was a French guide on cars, car maintenance and places where those traveling cross-country can dine and lodge. Initially distributed for free, it released its first edition in 1900.

The guide was the brainchild of André Michelin who, together with his brother, later figured out that nothing given free would be taken seriously. So they decided it must be sold.

The 1926 edition started the "stars" rating to indicate which establishments served fine cuisine. The two and three stars were eventually added in 1930. Thus began the by-now-famous red book, actually a change from the original blue. Green guides exist as well, but these are mainly in France and its regions.

Twelve

Today there are 12 guides for hotels and restaurants that cover countries such as Benelux, Italy, Germany, Spain and Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Ireland, the "Main Cities of Europe," and, as of 2006, New York City, as well as a specific guide to France.

The Michelin guide is an annual publication. To keep its standards, those who review establishments revisit them every 18 months or so. It uses a three-star system for recommending sights—three is "worth the trip"; two, "worth a detour"; one, "interesting."

For restaurants, one star is given to "a very good restaurant in its category," two stars for "excellent cooking, worth a detour" and three stars for "exceptional cuisine, worth a special journey."

The guide's gastronomic ratings have become the most famous and influential in the world. They are taken very seriously by chefs. The title/rating is given only to a very select few. The addition or loss of a star can mean a difference in sales that run in the millions of Euros.

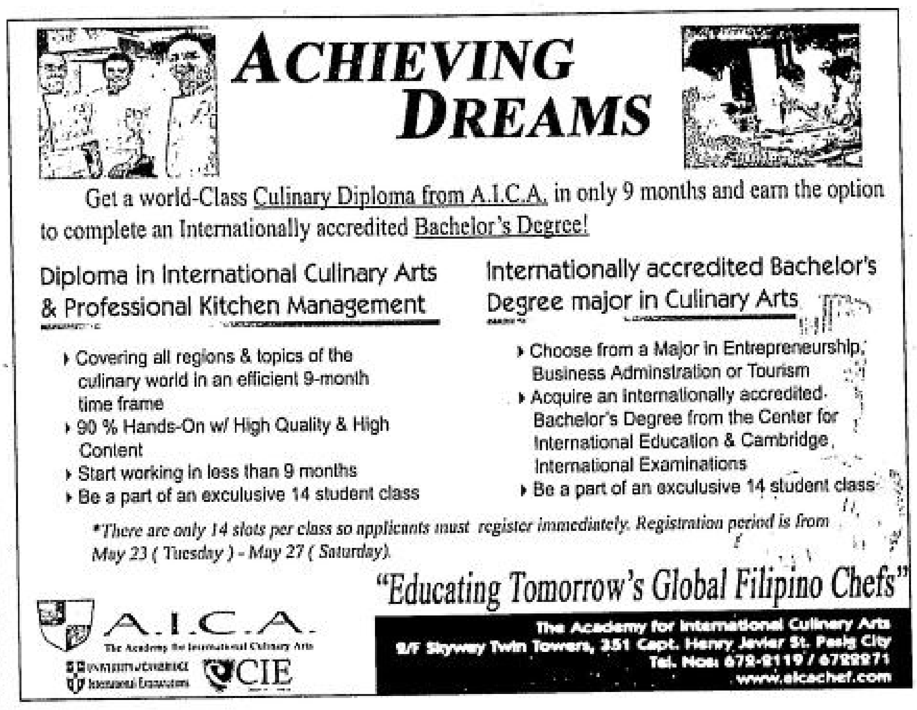
A rated restaurant becomes a food Mecca for gourmands, with reservations made months in advance, if one should even be so lucky to get a booking. Its chef is a culinary demigod.

In the world of haute cuisine, and especially to the French, a rating from Michelin or its rival, the equally prestigious Gault Millau, is equivalent to the chef's worth in gold. A loss of a star or, for the Gault Millau, a point is such a disgrace that, in the case of prominent French chef Bernard Loiseau, the master behind the renowned restaurant Côte d'Or in Saulieu in Burgundy, death was a better option. Rumors continue to fuel debate if it was the Gault Millau or the Michelin that made him opt to end his life.

MASTERS/C3

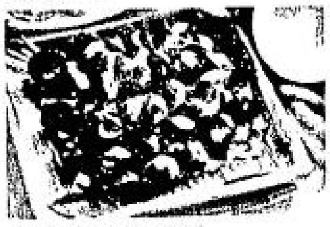
ICONIC 3-star Michelin chef Philippe Legendre

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
Get ready for fun and surprises with Starstruck's Charming Chinita's fan's day.
Iwa Moto
a world to discover
ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com



ACHIEVING DREAMS
Get a world-Class Culinary Diploma from A.I.C.A. in only 9 months and earn the option to complete an Internationally accredited Bachelor's Degree!
Diploma in International Culinary Arts & Professional Kitchen Management
- Covering all regions & topics of the culinary world in an efficient 9-month time frame
- 90 % Hands-On w/ High Quality & High Content
- Start working in less than 9 months
- Be a part of an exculusive 14 student class
Internationally accredited Bachelor's Degree major in Culinary Arts
- Choose from a Major in Entrepreneurship, Business Adminstration or Tourism
- Acquire an internationally accredited Bachelor's Degree from the Center for International Education & Cambridge International Examinations
- Be a part of an exculusive 14 student class
*There are only 14 slots per class so applicants must register immediately. Registration period is from May 23 (Tuesday) - May 27 (Saturday).
"Educating Tomorrow's Global Filipino Chefs"
A.I.C.A. The Academy for International Culinary Arts
CIE
The Academy for International Culinary Arts
9/F Skyway Twin Towers, 351 Capt. Henry Javier St. Pasig City
Tel. Nos: 672-8119 / 6722271
www.aicachef.com

SLIMMERS WORLD
THE ULTIMATE IN FITNESS, SKIN & BODY TREATMENTS
LOSE UP TO 10 INCHES IN 60 MINUTES!!!
ONLY P45* PER DAY
GREAT BODIES 2005 WINNER JONABEL GAVIETA Lost 34.5 lbs. of fat.
GREAT BODIES 2005 WINNER ARTURO GUERRERO Lost 35 lbs. of fat.
MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS.
*SAVINGS APPLY TO FULL PROGRAMMES.
NO JOINING FEES!
NO MONTHLY DUES!
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.
+ 5 FREE PERSONAL TRAINING SLOTS
SLIMMERS WORLD FACE & SKIN CLINIC
BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 5 FREE!!!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2787, Series of 2006.
MESOTHERAPY
Diamond Ultrapeel Hot Masque
Skin Whitening Body Former
Permanent Laser Hair Removal
FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 536-3333 MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
CALL US
www.slimmersworld.com.ph
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph
ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 809-0396
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312
CALOOCAN Roda/Olive 365-7653
CEBU Juna/Anne 231-3254
GREENHILLS Anna 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah 893-8935
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 536-0619
MEGAMALL Gina/Ruby 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan/Val 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Dino/Jiggs/Haydee 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Emily 814-0138
SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473816/09275341314



GINATAANG Kuhol

Linking the regions through food

By **Butch Pajarillo**
Contributor

IT HAS BECOME A SORT OF ICON for Filipino food lovers. And if the influx of old and new patrons in its branches is an indication of success, Gerry's Grill is definitely on top of the hill.

The joint has come a long way since founder Gerry Apolinario opened the first Gerry's Grill branch on Feb. 14, 1997 on Tomas Morato corner Eugenio Lopez Avenue in Quezon City. Now, eight years after, with 17 branches nationwide, Gerry's Grill still pulsates with excitement, as it continues to polish to perfection the art of good food.

Asked what he thinks of the company's steady success, Gerry's Grill marketing manager Francis R. Villaluz says he believes the restaurant is linking the Philippines through good food.

"What we offer is a good cross-section of the best dishes in the Philippines and if (somebody from) one region can appreciate a dish from another region then, in a way, the food has become instrumental in transcending cultural and ethnic boundaries," he says.

Whatever province of the Philippines one comes from, food lovers will always find at Gerry's a little bit of home that he or she misses. Aside from its continual quest for excellence, this element might be one of the reasons Gerry's decided to cater to Filipinos abroad.

Two branches of the restaurant are scheduled to open in the United States soon. The first is in San Francisco, tentatively scheduled to be inaugurated in December. The second US branch is in Los Angeles, due to open in February next year.

Search continues

Stagnancy is a word that does not exist in the Gerry's Grill vocabulary. Villaluz says Apolinario is always on the lookout for new ways of improving and expanding their product line, deriving inspirations from his trips all over the Philippines and abroad.

In addition to its original bestsellers such as *sizzling sisig*, beef *karekare*, crispy *pata*, *inihaw na pusit* and *lechon kawali*, Gerry's Grill has started offering a new line of delectable dishes like Tahong a la Pobre, Spicy Half-shelled Mussels tossed in garlic and oil; Adobong Puso Rice, rice wrapped in banana leaves mixed with chicken-pork *adobo*; Baked Scallops, baked half-shelled scallops in a special sauce topped with garlic and melted cheese; Steamed Pla-pla, *pla-pla* steamed served with garlic and butter sauce, topped with fresh leeks; Bagnet, crispy fried pork belly served with fresh onions and tomato salad, fish *bagoong* on the side; Bagoong Rice, plain boiled rice flavored with local fish *bagoong* and dried tiny shrimps; Crab Rice, boiled rice flavored with fresh crabmeat; Veggie Rice, fresh mixed vegetables stir-fried with plain boiled rice.

High standard

At Gerry's Grill product development is just the beginning of a tedious process. The chain maintains a very high standard when it comes to the consistency of the taste and flavors of its dishes. It's no easy feat when you're talking about 120 different items.

Next to great food, it is probably the ambiance that continually draws the crowd to Gerry's. The company believes dining must ultimately and truly be a relaxing experience. The place is inviting and not at all intimidating—a formula that has worked well for them through the years, with Gerry's going beyond its expected target market of *barkadas* unwinding after a hard day's work to families sharing quality time over lunch or dinner.

Gerry's Grill's local branches are on Tomas Morato, QC; Bicutan, Parañaque; Alabang; Jupiter Street, Makati; Glorietta, Makati; Insular Life Building, Makati; Libis, QC; Blue Wave, Manila; Malate, Manila; Marikina; Subic; Baguio; Lucena; Greenhills, San Juan; Batangas; Pampanga; and Cebu. Call 4211111.

PINAIS na Alimasag

CORELLE®
in Bloom

Complete your collection of Corelle's selected floral patterns at great savings. Now until May 31, 2006.

SALE up to 40% off

SM HomeWorld
Rustan's
METRO
Robinsons Department Store
THE LANDMARK

Join the Fiesta sa Sun Valley on May 20, Saturday!

Give in to nature's tender loving care

Golf Course
A lush carpet of greens spreading over natural rolling hills provide an unmatched golfing experience.

Fishing Lagoon
A nature-friendly community that showcases the pristine beauty of nature with a sprawling lagoon.

Secure Community.
A safe community where one can unwind without a care in the world.

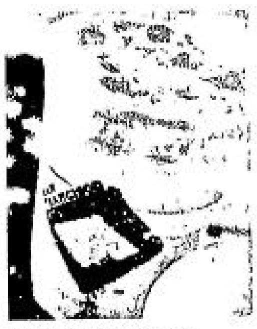
Club House
An activity hub equipped with an array of indoor and outdoor facilities that provide hours of fun-filled entertainment for friends and family.

Fresh mountain air...lush greens...lifting the spirit and lulling the body into a sweet surrender to the elements. Feel the loving embrace of nature from sunup to sundown. Live it up at Sun Valley Estates.

Call us and schedule a tour:
681.8240
633.6191 • 633.4197
637.2928 • 634.8115
636.1673 • 645.8415
0917.5293664
0906.4699896

www.sunvalleyphilippines.com
Email: info@sunvalleyphil.com
Sun Valley Estates Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City
HLURB License Nos. 06245, 08129, 10461

SUN VALLEY
Come Home To Nature.



SAN FRANCISCO Coffee serves Cup of Excellence awardees.

THE FLOURLESS Chocolate Cake is a must-try.

Award-winning brew

SAN FRANCISCO COFFEE DRAWS FROM ITS 25 years of experience to offer a package of famed coffee and commitment to customer satisfaction that has turned it into one of the leaders in its field.

San Francisco Coffee serves some of the Cup of Excellence award-winning coffee beans, as well as a wide variety of specialty coffees to suit individual preferences.

Its 25 years of experience in establishing and maintaining clean and well-managed retail outlets has made it one of the fastest growing companies in Asia. The coffee chain has opened branches in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Tokyo, aside from Manila.

San Francisco Coffee is now serving the limited-edition Coffee Colombian roast that has received the Cup of Excellence award.

The award selects the best coffee each season to recognize small farmers for the quality of their crop.

Philippine franchise holder of San Francisco Coffee is Hot Business Ventures Inc., headed by managing directors Felix and Katrina Limcaoco and operations manager Suzanne Fortes.

Visit San Francisco Coffee branches at Greenbelt 4, Somerset Olympia along Makati Avenue, Net 1 Building in Fort Bonifacio, Robinson's Ermita, Asian Development Bank Building in Ortigas, and in Libis, Quezon City.

Easy recipes for buffet

REGGIE ASPIRAS IS STARTING HER BUFFET Series featuring easy yet delicious recipes.

The class includes chaffing dish presentation.

May 19: Pot Roasts, four different recipes (all new)—Classic Pot Roast with Pilaf, Garlic Loaded with Garlic Boursin Creamed Potatoes, Italian Style with Fresh Pasta with Parmesan and Butter, Oriental with Noodles.

May 20: Fondue in your home plus other Swiss and German favorites—Fondue: Cheese & Beef Fondue with Classic Sauces; Raclette Buffet; Spareribs and Sauerkraut; Viener Schnitzel with Spaetzel; German Potato Salad; Bavarian Cream with Strawberries.

May 22: Gata (all new)—Kare-kare sa Gata with Guisadong Bagoong, Guinataang Talong, Guinataang Bulaklak ng Saging, Perfect Lechon Kawali with Guinataang Kalabasa Sauce, Fried Hito with Homemade Balo-Balao, Cassava Bibingka.

May 24: Wasabi—Phyllo Spring Rolls, Tuna Tartar with Wasabi Cream Sauce & Salsa Fresca, Crab Tempura with Caviar Wasabi, Cream Stir-fried Shrimp in Wasabi Butter, Delicious Angus Roast Beef with Honey Wasabi Crust, Wasabi Fried Rice, Salmon Belly with Sweet Miso Wasabi Sauce, Wasabi Potatoes, Dessert.

Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

IT'S TIME FOR HER TO GO TO SCHOOL.

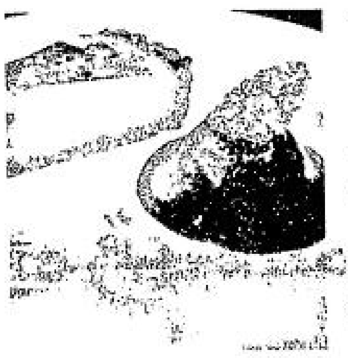
With Metrobank's CASH2GO, your credit card becomes instant cash. Just fill out a form at any Metrobank branch and you can enjoy instant funds with a low interest rate per month!

- Instant funds with the CASH2GO BEAT Installment Plan!
- Easy and affordable installments for painless payments at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, or 24 months
- Immediate cash for travel, appliances, and even tuition!
- For inquiries, call our 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at 8-700-700

CASH2GO
The BEAT Installment Plan

Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture of Metrobank and ANZ

You're in good hands with METROBANK



TARTE au Citron

SAUTEED King Scallop

Masters serve a symphony . . .

From page C1

Icons

A total of 11 stars twinkled in Singapore. Of the 11, I had the privilege of twinkling with three, labeled "Iconic Chef" at the World Gourmet Summit, three-star Michelin chef Philippe Legendre of Le Cinq, Four Seasons' Georges V in Paris, and one-star Michelin chef Kevin Thornton of Thornton's Restaurant in Ireland. Their restaurants are a must-try, at least once in your life... I had the chance to attend their workshops, watch them in action, learn from them, as well as feast on their creations.

Legendre's menu—Dublin Bay Prawns with Coriander Fricassee, Old Parmesan Cheese Lasagna; Pigeon with Date Puree and Tajine of Vegetables; Creamy Chocolate Mid-Bitter with Cocoa Sorbet—mirrored his very being. He calls his style typically French but with many influences from places he has been, people who inspire him and ingredients at season's prime—and he brings out the best in them.

The playful and artistic Irishman Thornton whipped up Sauteed King Scallop, Sugar Snap Peas, Squid Ink Sauce; Magret of Duck Glazed with Honey and Pistachios, Braised Red Cabbage, Jasmine Sauce; Tarte au Citron.

His food was a picture-perfect image of him; his plates hand-painted with dried fruit and vegetable powders accentuated with gold and silver dust. Thornton's cuisine so prominently shows his passions for life, art, photography, for all things whimsical and experimental.

Cooking is truly about leaving a piece of one's self in his food, the food becoming him and he his food. The master and his work can never be divided, never separated.

I recall very few occasions where I actually take bird bites. This time around I caught myself doing just that. I so desired for the dining experience to go on, if I had it my way, forever!

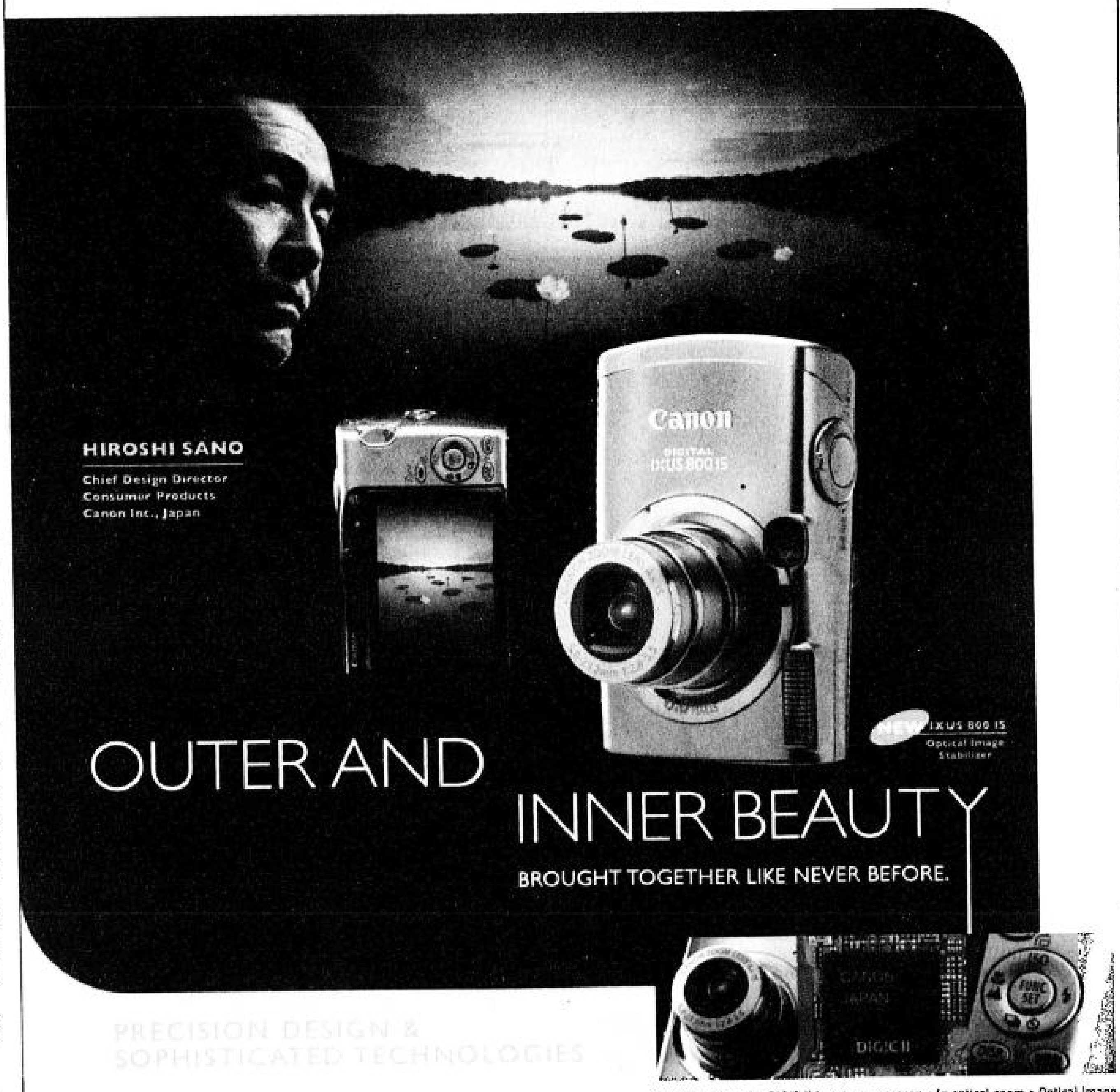
Simply put, dining with such culinary greats is all about the experience, the flavors and the subtle sensations. Their cuisine seems to be just right all of the time. Not one flavor overpowering the other, not one ingredient out of place, never quite whole without the other.

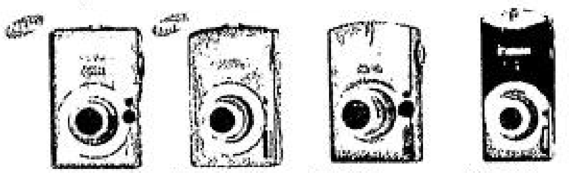
It is a symphony at play, in total unison, creating such mouth-watering moments that I shall carry on in palatal memory for a lifetime.

With an appetite decadently satisfied, I then sat down and listened to gustatory wisdom...

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

DUBLIN Bay Prawns with Coriander Fricassee, Old Parmesan Cheese Lasagna and, at left, Creamy Chocolate Mid-Bitter with Cocoa Sorbet





DIGITAL IXUS
Where style meets substance

Canon
Delighting You Always

6 megapixel CCD • DIGIC II imaging processor • 4x optical zoom • Optical Image stabilizer • High ISO low-light shooting • 16:9 still image shooting • 2.5" LCD monitor

IXUS 60
• 6 megapixel CCD
• 3x optical zoom

IXUS 65
• 6 megapixel CCD
• 3x optical zoom

IXUS 750
• 7.1 megapixel CCD
• 3x optical zoom

IXUS i zoom
• 5 megapixel CCD
• 2.4x optical zoom

POWERED BY DIGIC II

Insist on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels.: 884-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

A new level of dining

Here are eight more reasons to go to Greenbelt 3

FRESH Bar's Caesar Salad

By Pam Pastor

FOR MONTHS, WE WAITED FOR the good things that Greenbelt 3 was cooking up behind its boarded-up walls.

When the boards were taken down and doors were opened, we were treated to a gastronomic feast. From flavorful Phad Thai and heavenly fish and chips to free chip refills and ice cream customized to suit one's tastes—Greenbelt's Level 3 offered one yummy adventure after another.

"We have a wide array of food choices for a totally new and exciting dining experience. With this unique mix, we offer more than the usual. We're confident that our new Level 3 will be a big hit for people who like to have fun or for those who want to chill out and unwind," said Myrna Fernandez, senior division manager for Ayala Malls.

Eight new food outlets, eight new sources of palate pleasers, eight more reasons to go to Greenbelt 3.

Blue Ginger

The food: Thai street food

Must-order: Phad Thai, Yam Pla-Duk-Foo (Catfish with Green Mango Salad), Khao Kluk Kapi (Shrimp Paste Fried Rice), Po Pia Tod (Spring Rolls), Tom Yang Goong and Khao Niew Mamuang (Sticky Rice with Mangoes).

Bonus: The lighting's good and gives you a warm glow, making Blue Ginger a great place for dates.

Go when... you're in the mood for spice and when you're craving for Phad Thai

Fish & Co.

The food: Seafood, glorious seafood

Must-order: The Best Fish & Chips in Town. We cannot stress that enough. The fish and chips. It's perfect—light, crispy and fresh, served on a bed of fries or rice—your choice. Try the Seafood Platter One (a platter of seasonal fish, calamari and tiger prawns), Prawn Trellis and New England Clam Chowder. The desserts are a treat, too—their Warm Chocolate Fudge Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream is a big hit.

Bonus: Your server will hand you an Endearmint after the meal—mint candy that they bring in from South Africa.

Go when... you're in the mood for seafood and when you want to teach your kids the merits of eating fish.

Virtual visit: www.fish-co.com

BLUE Ginger's Shrimp Paste Fried Rice

National Sports Grill

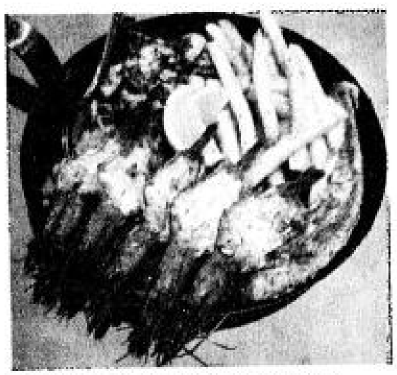
The food: American favorites and grilled goodies

Must-order: Top Spin Tenderloin (seasoned tenderloin topped with mushroom gravy sauce served with National rice and corn on the cob), Fish N' Mushroom (deep-fried fish fillet topped with sautéed mushrooms and melted mozzarella cheese. Served with fruit, corn on the cob and cajun tartar sauce) and the San Francisco Burger (on thin sourdough parmesan bread with lettuce, tomato, pickle chips, cheese, grilled onions and National sauce)

Bonus: If you order menu items that come with chips, you get free chip refills. And there's a billiard table just outside NSG where you can have fun with your friends while enjoying your drinks.

Go when... you're with friends (the servings are big) and when an exciting game is on so you can enjoy your food among cheering fans.

Virtual visit: www.nsg.ph


SEAFOOD Platter from Fish & Co.

Cheesecake, Etc.

The food: Cheesecakes, pasta and sandwiches

Must-order: Café de Luna, Belgian Double Cream, Mango Passion, Sugar-Free Cappuccino, Sugar-Free Choco Berry, Low-Fat Sugar-Free Lemon

Bonus: There's a wide variety of drinks to choose from, too.

Go when... you want to have a light meal and when you're in the mood for great desserts.

Cold Rock

The food: Ice cream from Australia and about 50 fruits, nuts, biscuits and chocolates you can choose from to make your own ice cream concoction.

Must-order: Choco Mint with Brownie, Ferrero Rocher with Nutella, Strawberry with Pound Cake, Coffee with Tim Tams, Aussie Vanilla with Cookie Dough and Tia Maria with Oreo

Bonus: Watch as your chosen ingredients are mixed into the ice cream flavor of your choice on a slab of cold rock. And yeah, they have low-fat offerings, too.

Go when... you want a new ice cream experience.

Virtual visit: www.coldrock.com.au

HEALTHY choices from Fuzion

Fresh Bar by Big Chill

The food: Fresh fruit shakes and more

Must-order: Avocado, Banana Mango, Banana Strawberry, Strawberry Mango—they're all good.

Bonus: Our favorite fruit shake stop now offers healthy food choices—light pastas, soups, salads and sandwiches.

Go when... you're missing the beach (one sip of their Banana Mango shake and you're transported to Bora) and when you want a healthy meal.

Fuzion

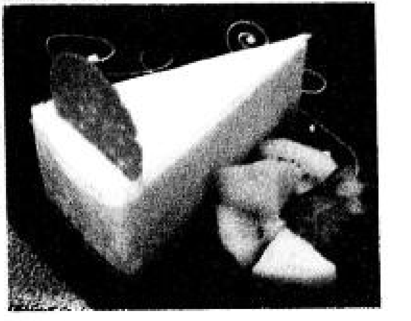
The food: Smoothies and more

Must-order: Very Berry Good (strawberries, raspberries, blueberries), What's Up Doc (carrots, oranges, bananas), Fla-Mango (mangoes, peaches, bananas). The Tipsy Smoothies are good too, if you want a buzz. Very Bailey Nice (vodka, pineapple, banana, yogurt and Bailey's), Indigo Conspiracy (rum, raspberry liqueur, pineapple, yogurt and blueberries), Pretty in Pink (rum, raspberry liqueur, raspberries, yogurt and pineapple). The Glazed Salmon Fingers are a big favorite and so are the Cajun Smoked Chicken, New England Crab and Mango Salad and the crepes.

Bonus: Fuzion's cozy lounge setup will make you want to stay for hours.

Go when... you want to kick off your shoes (literally) and unwind with your friends.

Virtual visit: www.fuzionsmoothies.com


ONE of the many cheesecakes from Cheesecake Etc.

Gonuts Donuts

The food: Donuts, donuts and more donuts.

Must-order: Amazing Glaze, Chocolate Frost, Pastillas de Leche, Choc-o-Hazelnut.

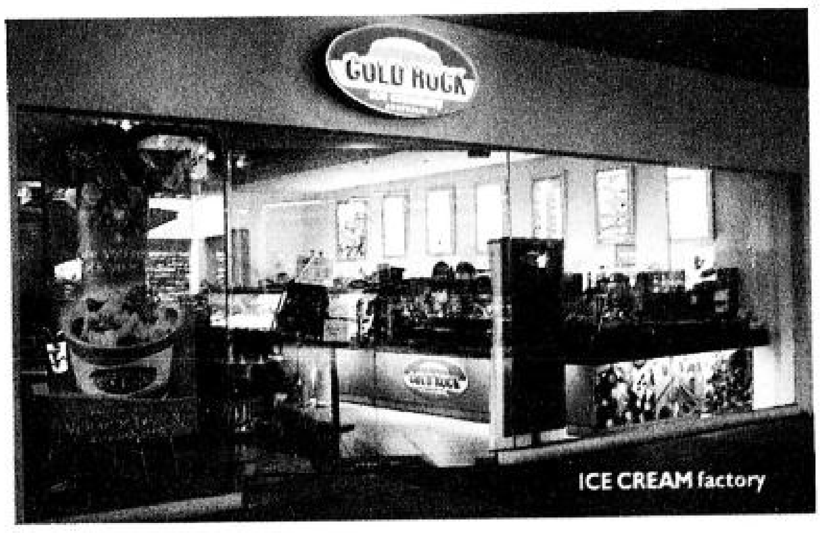
Bonus: One, if you're on a diet, try Gonuts Lite—they're sugar-free donuts, believe it or not. Two, you can enjoy them while watching movies at the Greenbelt 3 Cinemas—the store's a short walk from the ticket booth.

Go when... you need a sugar fix.

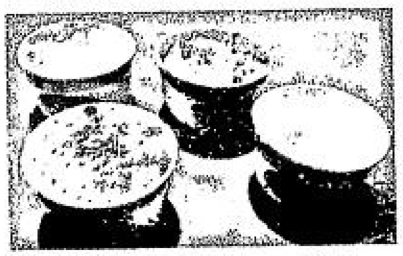
Virtual visit: www.gonutsdonuts.net

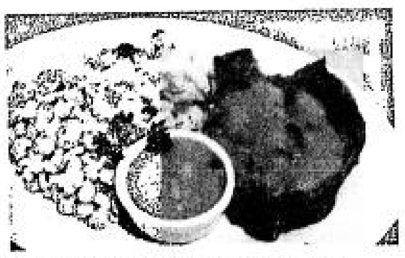
All restaurants are at 3/L, Greenbelt 3, Makati.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



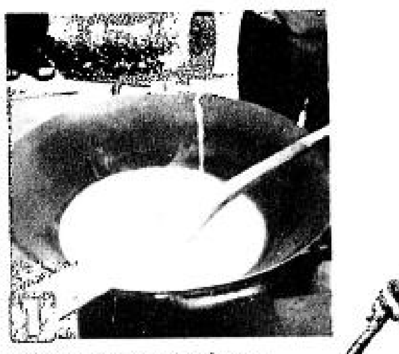
ICE CREAM factory


COLD Rock's ice cream concoctions

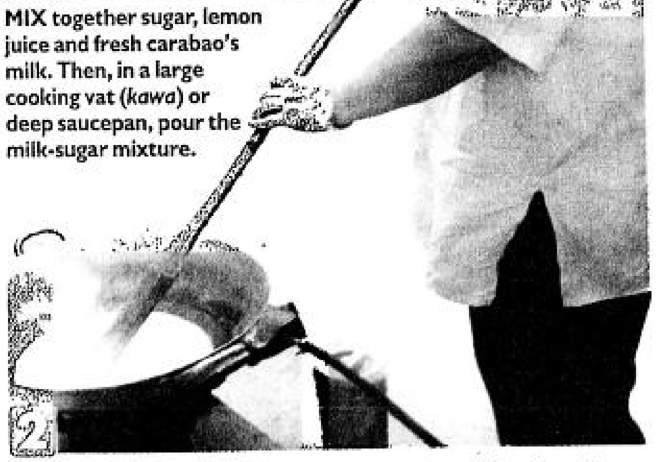

TOP Spin Tenderloin from National Sports Grill

San Miguel's sweet delight

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Carpio

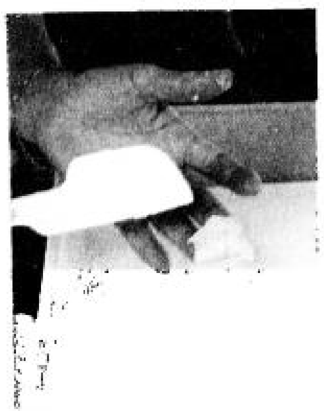


MIX together sugar, lemon juice and fresh carabao's milk. Then, in a large cooking vat (*kawa*) or deep saucepan, pour the milk-sugar mixture.



COOK mixture over medium heat, constantly stirring for an hour. Do not leave the mixture unattended because it scorches fast.

ALLOW mixture to rest and cool. Cook for a half hour more or until the mixture forms a solid mass. Remove from fire and transfer to a dry clean bowl to cool.



WHEN mixture is cool, form into balls or logs according to your desired size.

THEY COME BEAUTIFULLY wrapped—first in white paper, then in thin and transparent Japanese paper, expertly folded at the ends. Sometimes multicolored cutout wrappers that look like paper laces are used.

STEP BY STEP

This melt-in-your-mouth pastry coated in sugar is soft, creamy, smooth and rich in taste. Made only from fresh carabao's milk and sugar, Pastillas de Leche is simply San Miguel, Bulacan's pride.

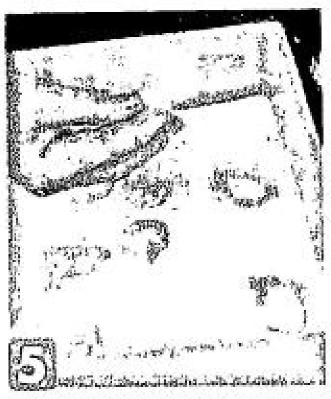
Pastillas-making has been a cottage industry in San Miguel for something like 135 years, according to the town's Mayor Edmundo "Pop" Buencamino, who is on his first term.

"San Miguel's *pastillas*-making has been handed down from generations to generations," he said. "It has been the town's source of livelihood, sending to college many students and [financing the building of] better homes, and keeping big bakeshops in Manila steadily supplied."

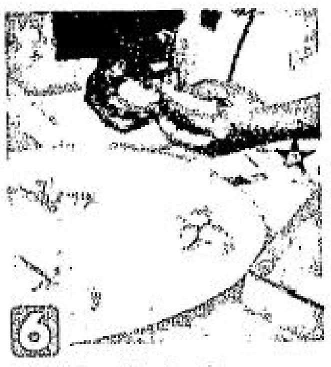
The recent first-ever Pastillas Festival in the province reassured the townsfolk that their products were well accepted and patronized not only in the country, but also internationally, a favorite *pasalubong* among *balikbayans*.

Buencamino said San Miguel's *pastillas* was well-received when it was brought to last year's Pistang Bulacan in Hilton Paradise Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada.

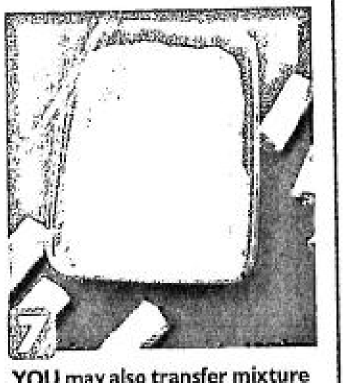
"We brought about 17 luggageful of *pastillas* and they were all sold out," Buencamino proudly reported. In September, San Miguel's *pastillas* will grace the international festival at Los Angeles Convention Center.



ROLL strips on sugar.



WRAP *pastillas* in oslo paper and cover with Japanese paper.



YOU may also transfer mixture into a plastic container.

Secret

The secret to the *pastillas* is the freshness of the carabao's milk, which is pasteurized immediately upon delivery from individual farmers in Bulacan.

Pastillas-making can be very tedious. "You need to get the freshest milk, cooking over a slow fire and stirring constantly. It takes hours to solidify," Buencamino said.

Milk and sugar are boiled together until thickened, then cooled and formed by hand into little mini-logs that are often rolled in more granulated sugar before they are individually packed in paper or cellophane. Some commercially made *pastillas* take a "shortcut" by adding condensed milk. Cooking is faster but the result is extra sweet.

The *pastillas'* shelf life is 12-15 days at room temperature and two to three weeks when refrigerated.

Here, Buencamino demonstrates how to make Pastillas de Leche in large volume.

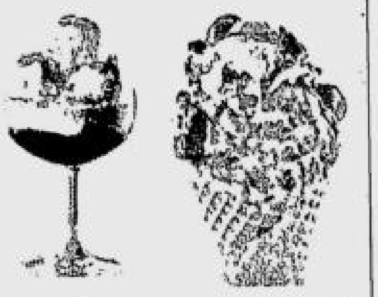
Ingredients:

Fresh carabao's milk
Granulated white sugar
Additional granulated sugar for coating
Lemon juice

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

PASTILLAS de Leche of San Miguel, Bulacan

Ice cream and other concoctions



THE NESTLÉ Creamery in Quezon City is an ice cream parlor for the whole family and *barkada*. Its specialties include all-time favorites like Banana Split, Buco Fiesta, Macapuno Pandan Medley. It also has ice-cream cakes (Tiramisu, Eskimo Decadence, Banana Split Pie, Mango Ice Cream Pie), and marble slab concoctions (pastry chefs create different types of fillings/custards to make ice cream concoctions creamier). Sundaes, cobblers and parfaits include Citrus Banana Crème Parfait, Eskimo, Vanilla Rocher, UFO, Choco Mint Trifle, Fruity Clear Glass, Cherry Chocolate Parfait, Strawberry Dream Parfait and Mango Berry Coupe. The Nestlé Creamery also serves hot meals. Birthday and special packages are being offered. The Nestlé Creamery is a joint-venture of Nestlé Corporation and Metro Grind. Call 4157872/4842.

COOL off with Bizu Patisserie and Bistro's bottomless fruit shakes in watermelon, cantaloupe, mango and *dalandan* flavors. Get a tall, cold glass for only P185+, refillable with any flavor. Try the new flavors of Bizu's popular Macarons de Paris in cantaloupe, piña colada and *pandan* and, instead of the usual chocolate éclair, have freshly baked éclairs with tart lemon or sweet vanilla pastry cream filling. Bizu Patisserie and Bistro are at G/F, Greenbelt 2; 3/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati; The Promenade, Greenhills; and G/F, Corte Delas Palmas, Alabang Town Center. Call 757BIZU (2498) or 8126451. Visit www.bizupatisserie.com

SAMALAMIG
Dencio's offers Samalamig concoctions for the hot season—Halo-halo in regular and mini portions, Ginumis, Sago't Gulaman, Mais con Hielo and Buko Pandan. Dencio's Halo-halo contains *saba*, *ube*, *langka*, beans and rice crispies laced with milk and topped with crushed ice and *leche flan*. Dencio's has outlets in Rockwell, Metrowalk, Eastwood, Luisita Center, Scout Albano, Subic, Brittany Bay, CCP Complex, Araneta Center, Banawe, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Capitol Hills, Jupiter, Las Piñas, Paseo Center, Robinsons Ermita, SM Megamall, Paseo de Magallanes and SM Baguio.

Dimsum class May 30

LEARN TO MAKE YOUR FAVORITE dim sum at San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center's special cooking class, "All About Dimsum," 1:30-4:30 p.m., May 30.

The class will be handled by top chefs from Suzhou Dimsum Restaurant and will cover items from Ahl Pao Siopao to other popular dim sum.

Registration fee is P800. A 20-percent discount will be given to members of My Great Food Club. Visit www.mygreatfoodclub.com or call 6719876, loc. 402, 403 or 405.

Healthy food cafe

From page C6

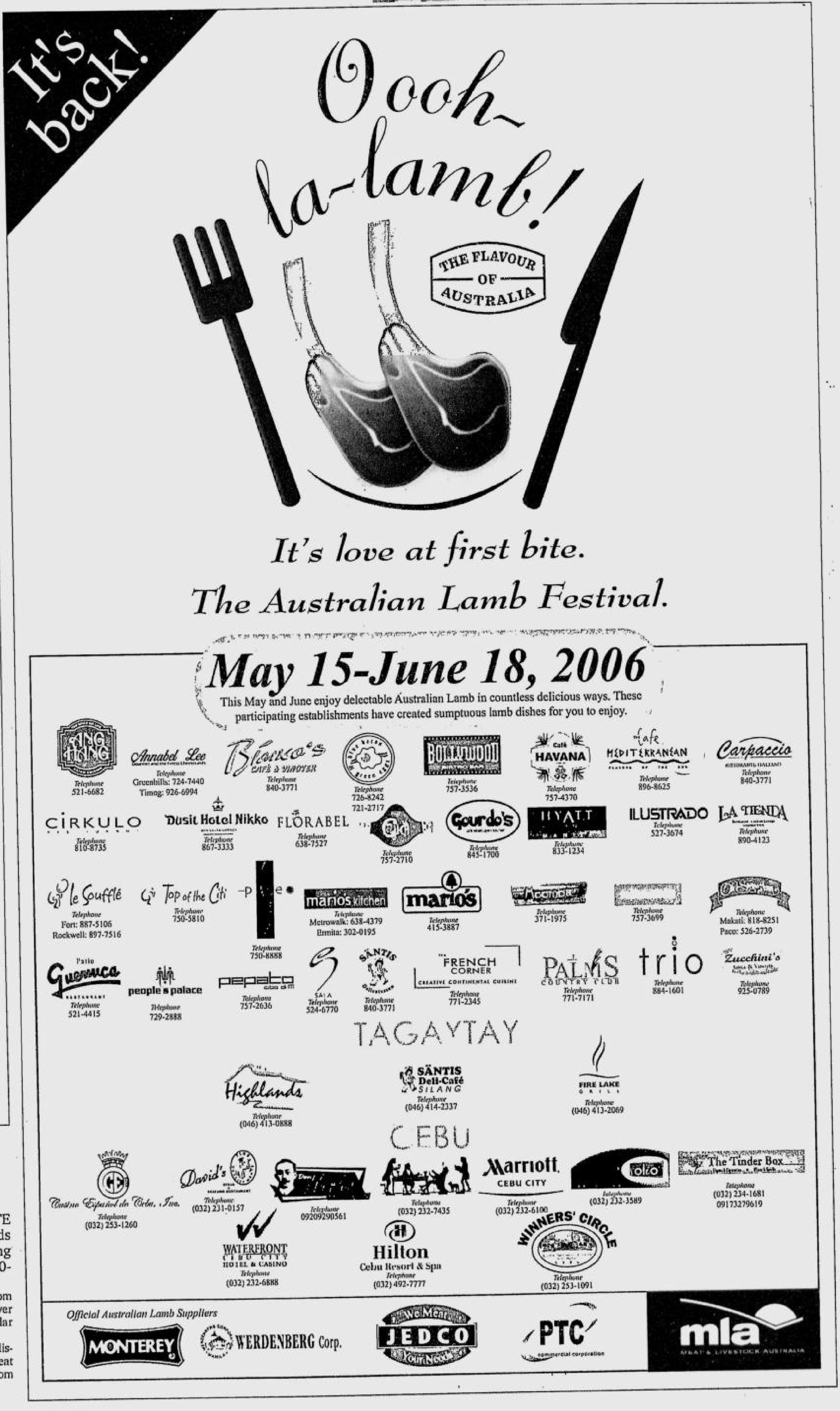
2505.

CROWNE Plaza's Xin Tian Di presents "Lobster Rocks" by master chef, Sam Lee, until May 31. The "Seven Corner's Champagne and Sparkles," champagne and sparkling wines at 25-percent discount as a perfect accompaniment to the international brunch buffet every Sunday of May, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Call 6337222 loc. 7240 and 7220.

DI' MARK'S offers Pizza Pro, topped with anchovies, mushrooms and pepperoni and the Mad Scramble Pizza with Italian sausages, pepperoni, mushrooms, green peppers, onions, garlic, chicken and tomatoes. Di' Mark's pizzas are complemented with appetizers, soups, pastas, main dishes and desserts. Di' Mark's branches are located at the 3/L, Greenbelt 3; Tomas Morato; The Wack-Wack and Commonwealth. Call 5255354 or 4040683.

T.G.I.FRIDAY'S recently launched a medley of rib platters. Start off with Friday's full-flavored pork ribs served with porkloin chops called the Ribs Platter and Pork Chop. Then there's the Ribs Platter and NY Steak served with choice aged beef, the Friday's Ribs Platter and Chicken, a combination of tender pork ribs and juicy chicken. Try the Ribs Platter and Shrimp and delight in the soft pork ribs goodness combined with succulent shrimp skewers. Each of these new rib platters are spice-seasoned and marinated with signature home-grown flavors, basted with Friday's very own Jack Daniel's glaze and served with fresh grilled corn on the cob. The Friday's Rib Platters are available until June 30 at T.G.I.Friday's branches in Glorietta 3, Makati; Robinsons Place Manila; Hotel Rembrandt in Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Alabang Town Center; and Sta. Lucia East.

CRUSTASIA'S Emperors' Buffet offers Szechuan Crab and seafood selections. Crustasia is at 3/F, Podium, 18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center; and at G/L, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati City. Call 7285463 and 6313857.



It's back!

Oooh-la-lamb!

THE FLAVOUR OF AUSTRALIA

It's love at first bite.
The Australian Lamb Festival.

May 15-June 18, 2006

This May and June enjoy delectable Australian Lamb in countless delicious ways. These participating establishments have created sumptuous lamb dishes for you to enjoy.

Telephone 521-6682
Annabel Lee Telephone Greenhills: 724-7440 Timog: 926-6994
Blanco's Café & Vinoteca Telephone 840-3771
Telephone 726-8242 721-2717
Bollywood Telephone 757-3536
Café Havana Telephone 757-4370
Cafe Mediterranean Telephone 896-8625
Carpaccio Telephone 840-3771
Cirkulo Telephone 810-8735
Dusit Hotel Nikko Telephone 867-3333
Florabel Telephone 638-7527
Telephone 757-2710
Gourdo's Telephone 845-1700
Hyatt Telephone 833-1234
Ilustrado Telephone 527-3674
La Tienda Telephone 890-4123
le Soufflé Telephone Fort: 887-5106 Rockwell: 897-7516
Top of the Citi Telephone 750-5810
Telephone 750-8888
Mario's Kitchen Telephone Metrowalk: 638-4379 Ermita: 302-0195
Mario's Telephone 415-3887
Telephone 371-1975
Telephone 757-3699
Telephone Makati: 818-8251 Paco: 526-2739
Patio Guernica Restaurant Telephone 521-4415
People's Palace Telephone 729-2888
Pepato Telephone 757-2636
Sala Telephone 524-6770
Säntis Delicatessen Telephone 840-3771
The French Corner Creative Continental Cuisine Telephone 771-2345
Palms Country Club Telephone 771-7171
Trio Telephone 884-1601
Zucchini's Telephone 925-0789

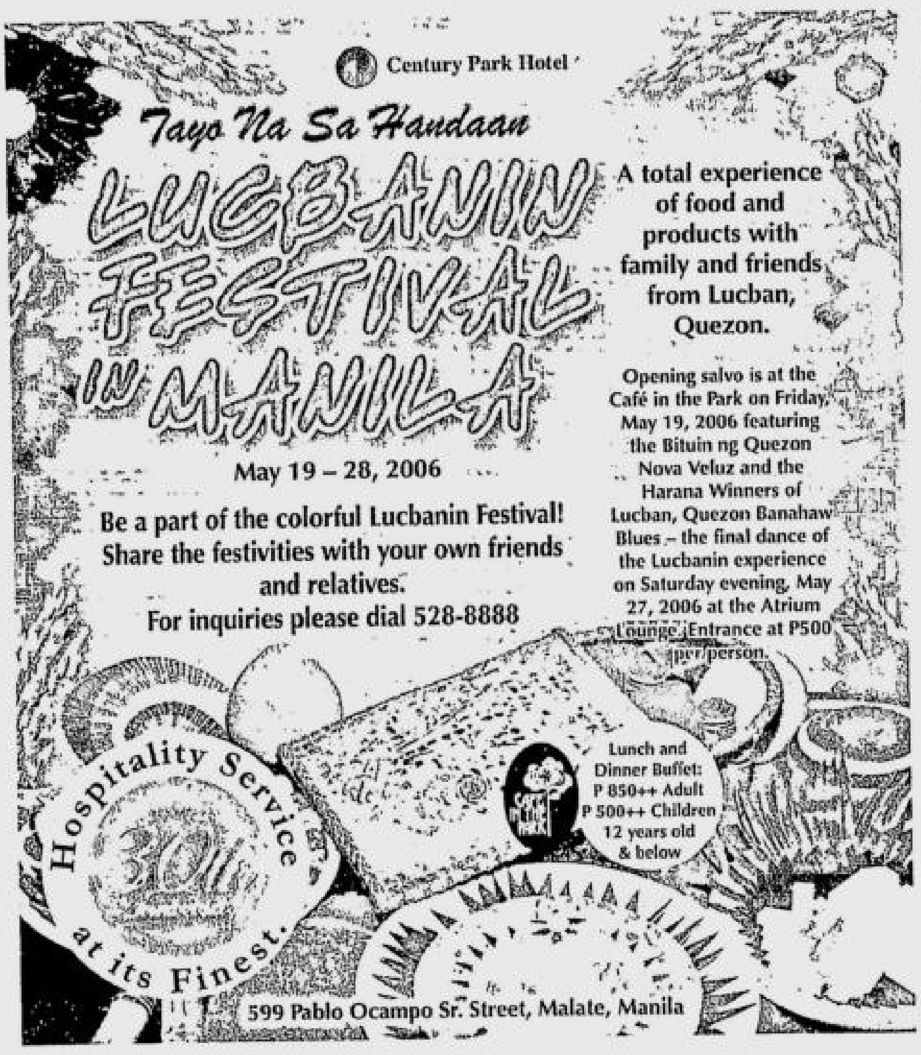
TAGAYTAY

Highlands Telephone (046) 413-0888
Säntis Deli-Café Silang Telephone (046) 414-2337
Fire Lake Grill Telephone (046) 413-2069

CEBU

Casino Español de Cebu, Inc. Telephone (032) 253-1260
David's Telephone (032) 231-0157
Telephone 09209290561
Telephone (032) 232-7435
Marriott Cebu City Telephone (032) 232-6100
Olio Telephone (032) 232-3589
The Tinder Box Telephone (032) 234-1681 09173279619
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino Telephone (032) 232-6888
Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa Telephone (032) 492-7777
Winners' Circle Telephone (032) 253-1091

Official Australian Lamb Suppliers
Monterey
Werdenberg Corp.
We Meat Your Needs JEDCO
PTC commercial corporation
mla Meat & Livestock Australia


Century Park Hotel
Tayo Na Sa Handaan
LUCBANIN FESTIVAL IN MANILA
May 19 – 28, 2006
Be a part of the colorful Lucbanin Festival!
Share the festivities with your own friends and relatives.
For inquiries please dial 528-8888
A total experience of food and products with family and friends from Lucban, Quezon.
Opening salvo is at the Café in the Park on Friday, May 19, 2006 featuring the Bituin ng Quezon Nova Veluz and the Harana Winners of Lucban, Quezon Banahaw Blues – the final dance of the Lucbanin experience on Saturday evening, May 27, 2006 at the Atrium Lounge. Entrance at P500 per person.
Lunch and Dinner Buffet:
P 850++ Adult
P 500++ Children 12 years old & below
Hospitality Service at its Finest.
599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila

RED CRAB SURF AND TURF OFFERS
Crabs and Rib Fingers, Crab Maritess, grilled US rib fingers, garlic pasta sautéed vegetables; and Hawaiian Prawns and Rib Fingers, grilled prawns and pineapple kebab with grilled rib fingers potato salad, sautéed vegetables. Every order comes with a free stuffed toy. Red Crab branches are at 536 Remedios St., Malate; 104 Tomas Morato, QC; 2/F, Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center; and G/F, Shangri-La Mall, Ortigas. Call 4009980.

DINING OUT

Healthy food café

CHAIKOFI, A TEA, COFFEE AND FOOD specialty store and café, opens at the Mall of Asia. Offering a healthy line of drinks and dishes, it will serve 16 "fruiteas" with green tea polyphenols, antioxidants that reputedly help the body deal with oxygen-free radicals, which can cause certain diseases and hasten the aging process.

Teas use as sweetener an extract from the stevia herb from Paraguay that is supposed to be high in energy. The café will also serve a variety of snacks and light meals. Gift packs of Chaikofi tea and coffee products will also be available. Visit www.chaikofi.com

THE RICHMONDE Grill lunch buffet spread features all-time Filipino favorites, such as Adobo, Lumpia and Sinigang as well as Inasal, Binakol and Kinilaw (Visayas); Lomo, Bagnet and Pinakbet (Ilocos); Chicken Relleno and Pork Estofado (Bulacan); Pinagat, Laing and Bicol Express (Bicol). Desserts include Pastillas, Guinataan, Bibingka and Halo-Halo. Available every Sunday until Friday, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at P585+. A la carte menu is also available all day, every day. Executive chef Ed Santos creates Grilled Chicken and Prawns in Spicy Coconut Milk to complement the Grill's a la carte menu choices this month. The chef's recommendation is part of the Richmonde Grill's all-day dining menu, available 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Call 6387777 loc. 3409 or 6898419.

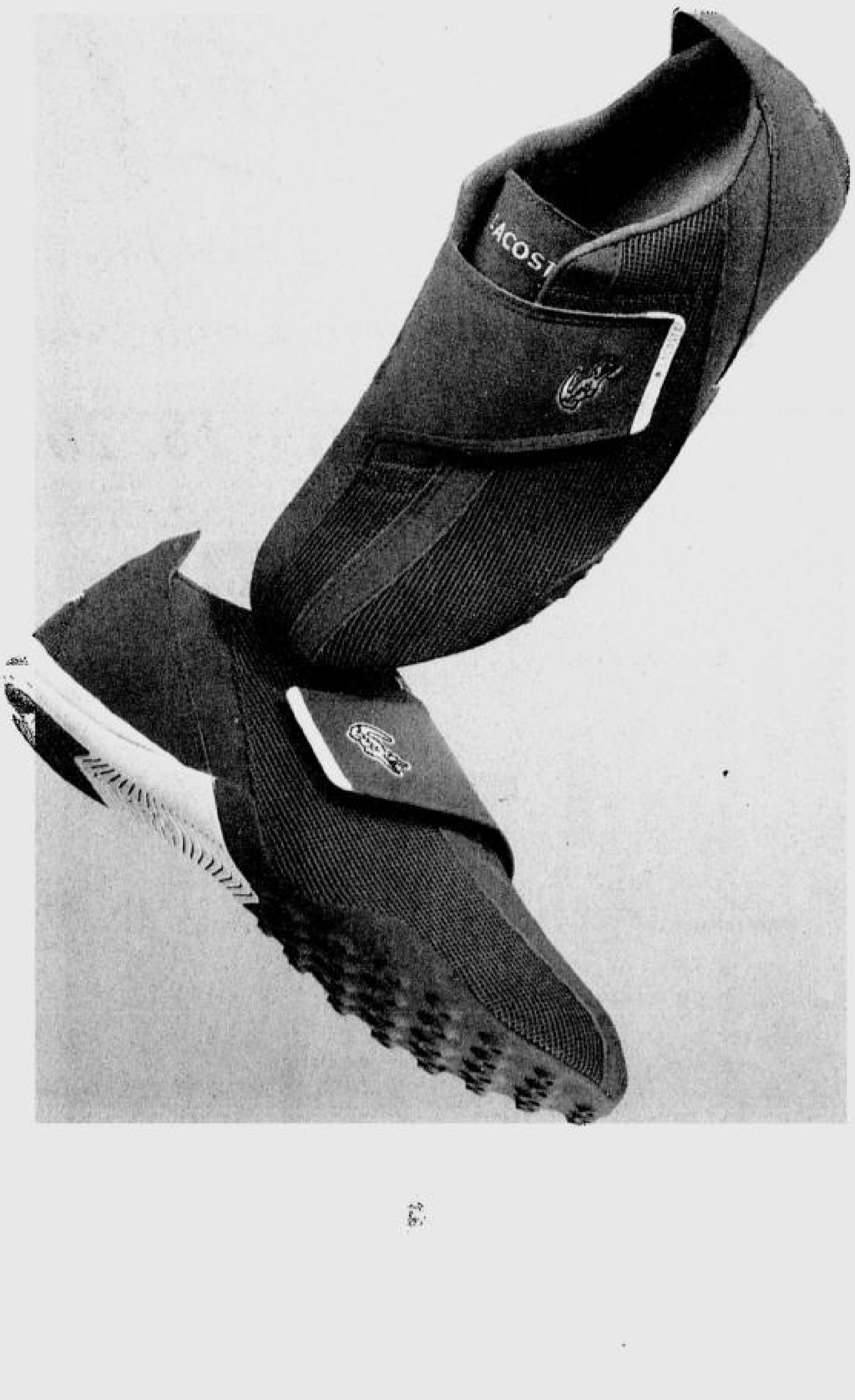
HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila will feature one of the world's most exotic cuisines, Moroccan, alongside the international buffet selections at Raphael Café, 12 noon-2:30 p.m., daily. Dishes include couscous, plumped semolina grains; *bisteeya*, a three-layer pie wrapped in the thinnest of pastry; *mechoui*, tender roasted lamb; and *djej emshmel*, roasted chicken with olives and lemon. Enjoy the Mystic Morocco buffet at P600+ per person. For reservations call 6337111 loc. 7416.

MAKATI Shangri-La presents the Dragon Boat Festival, May 25-June 11. Chef Tsang will prepare traditional delicacies like Gou Cheng Chong and the sweet Kan Shui Chong. Indulge in culinary masterpieces at Shang Palace with a number of a la carte dishes. Call 8138888, 8137588, 8137599.

CENTURY Park Hotel's Café in the Park serves family lunch or dinner buffet for P895 per adult and P500 for children 4-12 years old. At Unsui Japanese Restaurant, a meal is available for P1,200. Call 5285827/29 or e-mail foodbev@centurypark.com.ph

THE MANILA Pavilion Hotel's Rotisserie offers the following dishes: Pan Seared Sea Scallops and Rosemary Skewers; Pumpkin Cream with Apple Smoked Bacon Bits; One Side Grilled Tuna and Olive Tapenade Fettuccini; Baked Lamb Loin "Parmentier" with Grilled Vegetables or Pan Roast Prawns on Mushroom Harinette with French Goat Cheese; Crispy Tropical Fruit Tart and White Chocolate Ice cream, priced at P1,850+ per person. Call 5261212 loc.

HEALTHY/C5

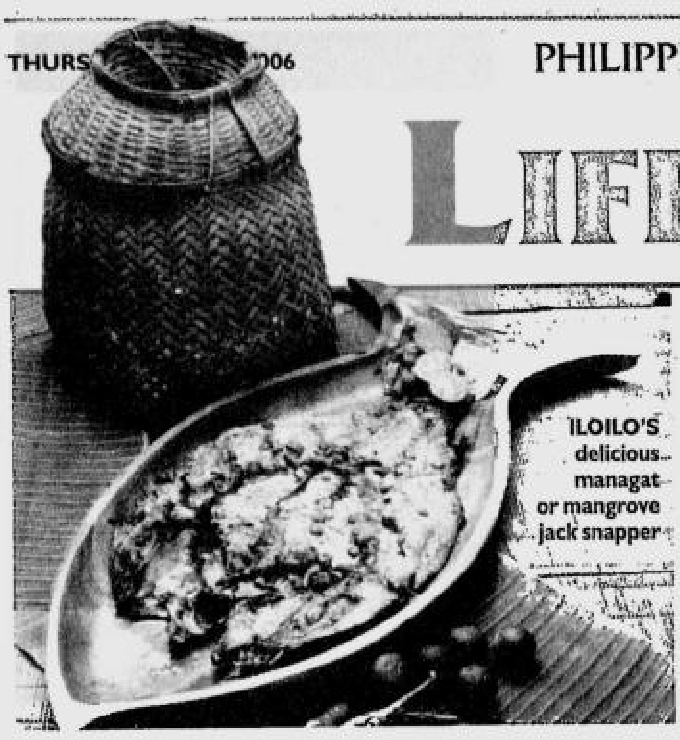

LACOSTE
Santo Mesh for men
www.lacoste.com
• Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Tel. No. 635-0744 • Glorietta 3, Tel. No. 867-4077 • Robinsons Place Manila, Tel. No. 522-7778
• The Power Plant Mall, Tel. No. 898-0933 • The Podium, Tel. No. 633-8226 • The Gateway Mall, Tel. No. 912-5726 • Robinsons Galleria, Tel. No. 638-8020
• SM City Davao, Tel. No. (082) 297-2510 • Ayala Center Cebu, Tel. No. (032) 232-5455 • SM Mall of Asia (Soon to Open)

Grab a Sony Ericsson W550i NOW.
FREE @ Plan 2000
'Only from SUN!
• Stereo Widening, Mega Bass
• 1.3 Megapixel Camera with 4x Digital Zoom
• Game Buttons with Premium In-ear Buds
sun CELLULAR

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)


ILOILO'S delicious managat or mangrove jack snapper

Iloilo cooking by a young chef

While confident of her Continental cuisine know-how, she had to study the food of her province to do it correctly

PAULINE Gorriceta-Basusing, Ilonggo chef

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

PAULINE GORRICETA-BASUSING was in her white chef's uniform as she welcomed guests to the opening of "Manamit!," the Ilonggo food festival at the Mandarin Oriental Manila. A young Filipino chef cooking her hometown cuisine? Years ago, it would have been unlikely.

Aspiring chefs mostly study Continental cuisine, even other Asian cooking, but never our own.

Pauline, herself, is an example, attending the best schools—Culinary Institute of America, New School of New York and the Institute of Culinary Education (formerly Peter Kump's). Leaning toward Italian cooking, she opened Al Dente Ristorante Italiano in Iloilo. She also manages a seafood restaurant, a bistro and a catering service in the city.

But while confident of her Continental cuisine know-how, she felt she had to study the food of her province just to be sure she would do it correctly for this festival. Her mother, a veteran of the restaurant business (managing fast-food joints called Try Me), taught her how to go about it.

Learning from masters

The advice was to learn from the masters. For *batchoy*, it was the old man (she doesn't know his name) who prepared the dish daily at Deco. She went to the market at four in the morning. Deco is one of the stalls famous for the signature Iloilo soup dish with slices of pork and innards and thin noodles. She was told to ask the man casually about the process, for what commercial cook would give out secrets?

Pauline says among the casually shared secrets is using Marca Pating, a monosodium glutamate (MSG) sold at the La Española grocery. She mentions the places as if I know them. But yes, I had been to Iloilo and had eaten at Deco and Ted's, premier *batchoy* providers. I will get to that grocery some day. As the hotel would not let her use MSG, she said they made good beef stock.

The other secret to the *batchoy* is *guinamos* (fermented fish) in a *katsa* bag swirled about to give added flavor.

From the *batchoy* table, we took a tour of the food as she annotated. It was an insight as well on hotel requirements in presenting local cooking.

She pointed out the *pinamalhan*, fish cooked in vinegar and tomatoes, the Iloilo *paksiw*. It's supposed to be *bangus*, she said, but the hotel wanted it done with salmon. Must have something to do with the bones.

Surprised

We laughed at how the expat chefs were surprised that she cooked the *linusgusan na lukon* (steamed prawns) in 7-Up. They do have to learn that the "uncola" does make whatever you cook with it (shrimps, mussels, barbecue) sweeter.

A big steamer contained fresh oysters. Pauline says oysters are steamed rather than boiled in Iloilo. There were fresh scallops as well. Her food styling lessons came to the fore as she added green mango shreds on top to dress up this essentially plain but really wonderful shellfish.

When we talked of *adobo*, she included a cooking lesson to point out how different they did it in Iloilo. It starts with sautéing garlic, onion and meat. Next, bay leaf, peppercorn, *achuete* (for color) and, most important, *sinamak*, the local vinegar, are added. A little sugar tempers the vinegar and finishes the dish.

Sinamak is an integral part of eating in Iloilo. Aside from flavoring food in the cooking, it's a must-dip that chicken *inasal* (coal-roasted) can't do without. This coconut vinegar is mixed in with garlic, *siling labuyo*, peppercorn and *langkawas* (ginger, *galangal*) that is so potent in both flavor and smell that it isn't allowed aboard an airplane. A huge sign at the Iloilo airport says so.

Another dish she had to learn was the *tinu-om*, chicken wrapped in banana leaves then steamed in its own juice. The traditional way of cooking is inside a big bamboo stalk making sure the banana leaf is tied tightly so the juices don't escape.

She showed diners the old way by placing a sample beside the chaffing dish containing the *tinu-om*. When she was testing this dish, some told her to add more flavors or to make it soupier. But she relied on the version of a farmer who worked for her father.

In demand

The dish that couldn't be replenished fast enough was the grilled *managat*. It's a mangrove fish, a jack snapper. The brackish water explains its delicious flavor and texture—soft, white and fatty flesh.

The foods on the appetizer buffet were really *merienda*. There were *panara* (*empanada*) of *mongo* sprouts and *lumpiang ubod*. Crispy crablets were present probably because they are so identified with Ilonggo cooking.

Finally the dessert table. It had the most interesting offerings even if you didn't have a sweet tooth. Pauline pointed to the *bae-bae*, *pinipig* cooked in coconut milk, which she said she learned from specialists in Iloilo. She promised she wouldn't cook it for business.

It was wonderful to see and eat once more the papaya candy, thin slices of green papaya processed in sugar then formed into petals with creamy *yema* in them. Pauline said the candy was from Passi, Iloilo, that had many sugar mills. Hence, many sweets were invented there.

There were colorful *bocayo* (candied coconut strips) and small *bibingka* pieces that contained strips of young coconut. Being passed around on the first day was a basket filled with pieces of butterscotch, *yemas* and *empanaditas*. A taste of each led to a second helping to take home.

Every day, Pauline works the room, many guests are friends from college and some, Ilonggos who have settled here. Anyone who goes to the Captain's Bar is invited to sample Iloilo cooking.

She smiled as she related how a group of Swedes finished off their bowl of *batchoy*. But a Filipino with a foreign guest opted for Continental food. Sad, Pauline said, how our own people would not even try the food.

Manamit! Iloilo Food Festival is on every lunch until May 19 at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati City.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

CAKE DECORATING; SAUSAGE MAKING; COOKING & BAKING LESSONS
AT 181 SHAW BLVD., PASIG ☎ TEL. NOS 671-4498 · 671-4472 · 671-4489
DEMONSTRATION-STUDENT PARTICIPATION METHOD. ALL COURSES ARE FOR BEGINNERS & NON-BEGINNERS. HANDS-ON IN ALL COURSES. FEES INCLUSIVE OF INGREDIENTS

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala
GOLD MEDALIST Academia de Gastronomos Madrid, Spain - 1964
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied in 6 cooking schools in Hongkong

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
LEARN AND EARN!
GRADUATE : ITALIAN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED CULINARY & PASTRY ARTS UNDER CHEF DIRECTOR JOHN NOCITA, SOVERATO, CALEBRIA, ITALY
GRADUATE : LE MOULIN DE MOUGINS ALAIN LLORCA, CANNES, FRANCE
GRADUATE : ECOLE RITZ ESCOFFIER, PARIS RITZ HOTEL, FRANCE
GRADUATE : ECOLE LENOTRE PATTISERIE, PLAISIR CEDEX, FRANCE
GRADUATE : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools
PRACTICAL, EASY, EXACT RECIPES

Leni Reynoso-Araullo
CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR, CHICAGO, U.S.A. - ONLY ONE IN THE PHILIPPINES
MASTERS IN CAKE DECORATING, WILTON SCHOOL, CHICAGO, U.S.A., 1974 UNDER MARTHA & STANLEY WILTON
GRADUATE : GUMPASTE & FONDANT W/ COLETTE PETERS, OCT. 05
ADVANCED WORKSHOP W/ COLETTE PETERS, CHICAGO, U.S.A. NOV. 05
(CONSIDERED BY WILTON & LIFESTYLE CHANNEL AS THE WORLD'S #1 CAKE DECORATOR)
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

MAY 18, 25 (2 THURSDAYS) 2:00 - 5:00PM - LEARN TO MAKE BOTTLED PRESERVES IN 2 LESSONS. P1,800. MANGO JAM, PINEAPPLE MANGO; APPLE SAUCE FOR ROAST TURKEY & PORKLOIN, UBE JAM; FRESH ORANGE MARMALADE; GUAVA JAM; STRAWBERRY; FRESH LEMON CURD MARMALADE. BY LENI

MAY 19 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM - DELICIOUS DIMSUM STYLE PORK SPARERIBS; SPICY CHICKEN FEET, SHRIMPS ON TOAST, BUCHI W/ SESAME SEEDS; AUTHENTIC HONGKONG-CHINESE CONGEE W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS. FISH FILLET; PORK, SZECHUAN VEGETABLES; BOLA-BOLA, PORK LIVER; KIDNEY; PIG STOMACH. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

MAY 20 SAT 2:30 M- 6:15PM - LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI, KUA PAO (PEKING SIOPAO W/ MEAT & PICKLED MUSTASA). FISH HEAD SOUP, CAMARON RELLENADO, QUIKIAM W RADISH SALAD. STEAMED LAPU-LAPU. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

MAY 23 TUE 2:30 - 6:00PM - POPULAR JAPANESE DISHES 2 - LEARN 8 DELICIOUS RECIPES! SHABU-SHABU W/ 2 SAUCES; ASSORTED CRISPY TEMPURA; GRILLED PORK & BEEF SLICE; UDON (VERY SPECIAL NOODLES), FRIED TOFUS IN SPECIAL SAUCE. BREADED CHICKEN WINGS W/ VINEGAR SAUCE; JAPANESE MIXED FRIED RICE. PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF COMPLETE SUSHI BAR. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

MAY 24 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - NOT TOO SPICY, AUTHENTIC THAI COOKING 2 - THAI CHICKEN BARBECUE, BARBECUED 5-SPICE PORK SPARERIBS, THAI CHICKEN SATAY, THAI FRIED FISH CAKES; GARLIC SQUIDS, CURRIED FISH WRAPPED IN BANANA LEAVES. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

MAY 26 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - OPEN A COZY KOREAN RESTAURANT. LEARN TO MAKE THESE KOREAN SPECIALTIES; KIMCHI, SPINACH SALAD; MIXED RICE W/ KOREAN BEEF; BEAN SPROUTS; KOREAN PORK BARBECUE, DEEP-FRIED BEEF IN SKEWERS; CRAB & PORK FRIED RICE; KOREAN STYLE SOTANGHON; OJINGKO POKUM (SQUID IN HOT SAUCE)); ROSE KUI; KOREAN BEEF STEW TOPPED RICE PLUS KITCHEN-TESTED BONUS RECIPES. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

MAY 27 SAT 1:00 - 5:30PM - LEARN TO BAKE & DECORATE WILTON ALL OCCASION COOKIES ON POPSICLE STICKS USING ROYAL ICING. LEARN TO BAKE & DECORATE MUFFINS USING FLUFFY BUTTERCREAM ICING. P1,800. PLS BRING 3 PIPING BAGS, 2 COUPLERS, 1 ROUND & 1 STAR TIP (ALSO AVAILABLE FOR SALE FOR P300/SET AT THE CULINARY STUDIO). (ABOVE USED BY BAKESHOPS & CRUISE SHIPS. IDEAL FOR HOME BUSINESS). FOR BEGINNERS BY LENI

MAY 30 TUE & JUN 1 THU 9:00AM - 5:00PM - WILTON METHOD OF CAKE DECORATING COURSE 3. (FOR BEGINNERS). P4,500. INCLUDES LUNCH, SNACK, & WILTON KIT VALUE, P1,995. AND WILTON U.S.A. CERTIFICATE FROM A CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD INSTRUCTOR W/ OVER 30 YEARS TECHING EXPERIENCE IN CAKE DECORATING. LEARN VARIOUS FLOWERS ON LILY NAIL; FONDANT FOR BEGINNERS. BY LENI R. ARAULLO

MAY 31 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - LEARN 6 SUGAR-FREE YUMMY RECIPES MADE W/ EQUAL SPOONFUL & 4 COFFESHOP BESTSELLERS MADE W/ REGULAR SUGAR! DELICIOUS SUGAR-FREE CHICKEN BARBECUE W/ SALAD GRENS W/ VINAIGRETTE DRESSING; SUGAR-FREE POLVORON; SUGAR-FREE MANGO CHEESECAKE; SUGAR-FREE ORANGE CHEESECAKE; CHOCO CHEESECAKE; ALMOST SUGAR-FREE OATMEAL WALNUT COOKIES; REGULAR COFFEE CHOCO BARS, STARBUCKS STYLE RAISIN WALNUT OATMEAL COOKIES & CHOCO CHIP WALNUT OATMEAL COOKIES P2,500. BY SYLVIA

JUN 2 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - GRILLING, SIZZLING , FRYING! SISIG-CAPAMPANGAN. SIZZLING TADYANG & BAKA, NEW BONELESS MAGNOLIA CHICKEN FILLET BARCBECUE ON STICKS; KWEK-KWEK (COATED QUAIL EGGS ON A STICK W/ SWEET & SOUR SAUCE). CRISPY BUCHI ASADO PAO. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUN 3 SAT 2:00 - 6:00PM - 7 MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 1 - GERMAN BRATWURST; HUNGARIAN KIELBASA, MEXICAN LA, GREEK; SHEBOYGAN BRATS SAUSAGES. BAGUIO & CHORIZO MACAO. BONUS: ATCHARA & HOT POTATO SALAD BY LENI R. ARAULLO. P2,500

JUN 4, 11, 18, & 25 - 4 SUNDAYS 9:00AM - 5:00PM - 2006 FONDANT & GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE 1 - COLETTE PETERS' STYLE. 4 LESSONS. P6,000. INCLUDES INGREDIENTS, LUNCH, SNACKS EXCEPT DECORATING MATERIALS (AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO, OR BRING YOUR OWN) PLS BRING STYRO, BOX, SCISSORS, PAINT BRUSHES & CUTTERS IN EVERY LESSON BY LENI.
DAY 1: (1) HOT TO MIX GUMPASTE, TINT, TINT ROLL-OUT, CUT LEAVES 7 FLOWERS SUCH AS DAFFODIL, TULIP, LILY, CALLA LILY, EASTER LILY, DAISY, CARNATION, STEPHANOTIS, WILTON ROSE & OTHER PETAL FLOWERS, POINSETTIA, CHRYSANTHEMUM
(2) HOW TO USE CHALK & AIRBRUSHING YOUR FLOWERS; MAKE PATTERNS; TRANSFER PATTERNS; BRUSH EMBROIDERY, COLOR FLOWERS & CUT-GLASS TECHNIQUE (FREHAND GUMPASTE FLOWERS MOLDING)
(3) LEARN RIBBON INSERTION, RUFFLING INLAID TECHNIQUE, USE OF CRIMPEES & OTHER FONDANT TOOLS. CHOOSE AND/OR DESIGN DESIRED STYRO CAKE FOR WEDDING OR DEBUTANTE CAKE TO BE MADE FOR LESSON 4; HOW TO COVER CAKE W/ FONDANT- INCLUDING THOW TO TINT, ROLL-OUT FONDANT
(4) HOW TO PUT TOGETHER MULTI-LAYERED CAKES FOR WEDDING OR DEBUTANTE , STYRO AND/OR REAL CAKES. EXECUTE YOUR CHOICE OF DESIGN.

JUN 6 & 8 TUE & THU 9:00AM - 5:00PM WILTON METHOD OF CAKE DECORATING COURSE 1 (FOR BEGINNERS). NOW, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE U.S.A. TO GET A U.S.A. WILTON CERTIFICATE FROM A CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD INSTRUCTOR W/ OVER 30 YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE IN CAKE DECORATING CLASSES. P4,500, INCLUDES INGREDIENTS, LUNCH, SNACK, WILTON KIT VALUE, P1,775; & A WILTON U.S.A. CERTIFICATE. BY LENI R. ARAULLO

JUN 7 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM - MONEY-MAKING CHINESE FAST-FOOD RECIPES. WONTON NOODLE SOUP, DELICIOUS MAKI SOUP, STIR-FRIED LOMI; KUTCHAY DUMPLINGS W/ EASY-TO-MAKE HOMEMADE WRAPPER, PORK CURRY RICE; AUTHENTIC CHINESE STYLE SHRIMP FRIED RICE. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUN 9 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - PUT UP A STEAKHOUSE. LEARN THE TECHNIQUES TO COOKING THE JUICIEST MONTEREY PORTERHOUSE STEAKS. BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAK A LA POBRE, DELICIOUS HOMEMADE GRAVY, CAESAR SALAD, ROAST ORANGE PORKLOIN, BEST-SELLING BAKED SPAGHETTI W/ 2 SAUCES. MAKE YOUR OWN CREPES SAMURAI. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUN 10 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - VERY SPECIAL WELL-LOVED FILIPINO DISHES & SWEETS 1 - SUPER SARAP NA PANCIT MOLO; KARA-KARE NI ATCHING LENI; MECHADO; GUINATAANG MAIS; GUIA'S ILOILO RICE PUTO; CRISPY KANGKONG W/ 3 DIPS; UKOY ESPECIAL. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUN 13 & 15 TUE & THU 9:00AM - 5:00PM - WILTON METHOD OF CAKE DECORATING COURSE 2 (FOR BEGINNERS). LEARN THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF WILTON FLOWERS & BORDERS & RECEIVE A WILTON U.S.A. CERTIFICATE FROM A CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD INSTRUCTOR. P4,500. INCLUDES INGREDIENTS, LUNCH, SNACK & WILTON COURSE 2 KIT VALUE, P1,775. BY LENI R. ARAULLO

JUN 14 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN. JOLLIBEE STYLE CHICKEN W/ GRAVY; CHICKEN BURGER; DELICIOUS POTATO SALAD; SIZZLING GRILLED PORKCHOPS; FOUR SEASONS PUNCH; RIPE MANGO; MELON TAPIOCA W/ SAGO; GREEN MANGO JUICE P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUN 16 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR - LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES. MOZARELLA-TOPPED BIG & THICK CRUST PIZZA (BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN). THIN CRUST PIZZA W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS; FETTUCINE ALFREDO; SPAGHETTI CARBONARA. BREADED VEAL STEAKS W/ LEMON. PEACH-FILLED CREPES W/ FRUIT SAUCE PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS & SANDWICHES P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUN 17 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - MERIENDA FARE; THE BEST, NEW RECIPE PANCIT PALABOK; LUMPIANG UBOD W/ HOMEMADE UBE & EGG WRAPPER; FRIED LUMPIANG SHANGHAI; MINI FRUIT CAKE BARS; SARAP-BAKED COCOROONS. P1,800. BY SYLVIA

JUN 17 SAT 2:00 - 6:00PM
FREE COOKING DEMO
BY MORELLA AT
THE BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB.
SPONSORED BY
MONTEREY MEATS &
PANASONIC KITCHEN APPLIANCES.
FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT KHALDI'S, 10 CARIÑO ST. (ACROSS PALLADIN HOTEL) STARTING JUN 1 FROM 6:00 - 8:00PM ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. OR AT THE BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB ON JUN 17 AT 2:00PM REGISTRATION

✓ VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.sylviareynosogala.com

ATTENTION BAGUIO RESIDENTS SATURDAY & SUNDAY CLASSES

Morella Reynoso Gala
VALEDICTORIAN I.H.M.E.S. INTERNATIONAL HOTEL SCHOOL, UNITED KINGDOM -1992
STUDIED COOKING AT LE CORDON BLEU LONDON
OFFERS COOKING; BAKING; CAKE DECORATING & SAUSAGE MAKING
AT KHALDI'S CAFE BISTRO at #10 CARIÑO ST., (ACROSS PALLADIN HOTEL, BAGUIO)
PLS. CALL : WELLS, FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON ONLY MONDAY TO FRIDAY (074) 444-8844
PLEASE SEE BAGUIO MIDLAND COURIER SUNDAYS FOR BAGUIO SCHEDULE

JUN 17 SATURDAY
2:00 - 6:00PM
ALL BAGUIO
RESIDENTS ARE
INVITED TO A FREE
MONTEREY COOKING
DEMO BY MORELLA
AT THE BAGUIO
COUNTRY CLUB.

Argentina CORNED BEEF MEAT LOAF LIVER SPREAD VIENNA SAUSAGE
Panasonic
RICE COOKER, BLENDERS & KITCHEN APPLIANCES
Magnolia Quickmelt
MONTEREY QUALITY MEATS QUALITY MEALS
Century TUNA
RICOA BREAKFAST COCOA
Magnolia CHEDDAR CHEESE
Magnolia
Hunt's Paste
Hunt's Sauce
Hunt's Ketchup
Magnolia FRESH CHICKEN
Magnolia FULL CREAM MILK
Magnolia
EAGLE WINGS STAINLESS STEEL FABRICATED KITCHENS
FOR HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, HOMES
ISO 9001:2000
QUALITY CERTIFIED
PETE & ELLEN LEE TAN
EAGLE - WINGS
Tel. nos. : 287-9907 to 08
ICE CREAM CARTS
ROASTERS & ROTISSERIES
DIMSUM STEAMERS
FASTFOOD/BAKERY EQUIPMENT
Magnolia FRESH MILK
Gold Pure & Creamy Butter

HAIR LOSS?
Never Again!

FOR YOUR FALLING HAIR
Get Hair Reinforcer Ultra-Remedy

Are your hair strands falling at an alarming rate? Do you see more and more of them on your pillow, on your brush or on your hand when you shampoo? End your excessive falling hair problem with professional help from **Svenson International**. Our **Hair Reinforcer Ultra-Remedy** will strengthen your brittle strands, protect your hair from severe shedding and maintain its naturally lush look.

If you value your hair, trust Svenson.
Call us today for a FREE consultation.

WOMEN AT
Svenson

CALL 892-HAIR (4247)

MAKATI
15/F GT Tower

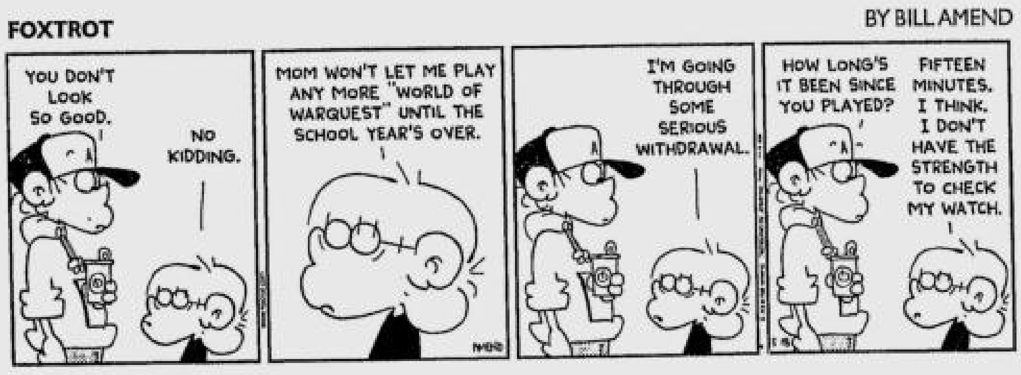
TOMAS MORATO
3/F CKB Center

BINONDO
11/F Federal Tower Bldg.

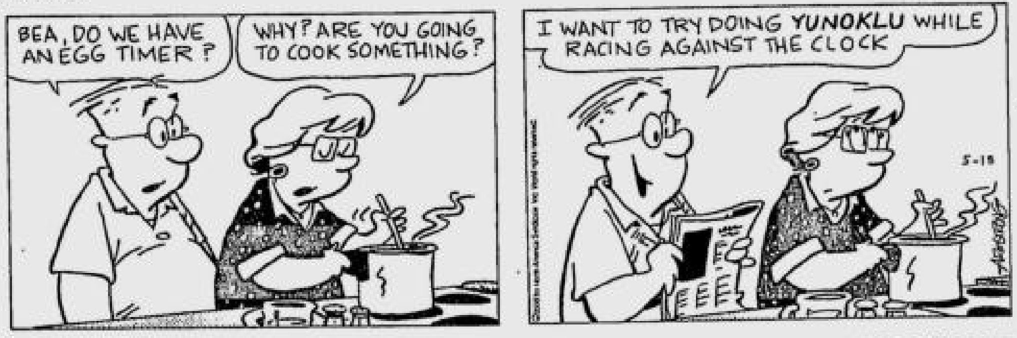
ALABANG
4/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.

CEBU
TEL: 234-0851
7/F Keppel Centre

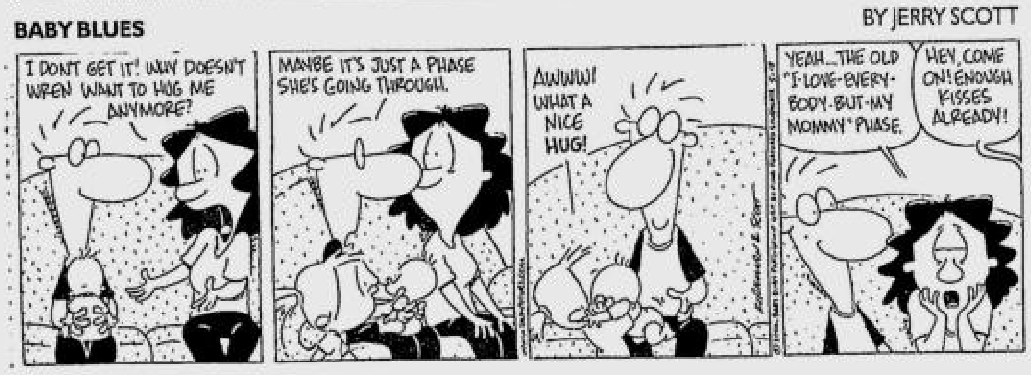
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD.
NO KIDDING.
MOM WON'T LET ME PLAY ANY MORE "WORLD OF WARQUEST" UNTIL THE SCHOOL YEAR'S OVER.
I'M GOING THROUGH SOME SERIOUS WITHDRAWAL.
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE YOU PLAYED?
FIFTEEN MINUTES, I THINK. I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO CHECK MY WATCH.

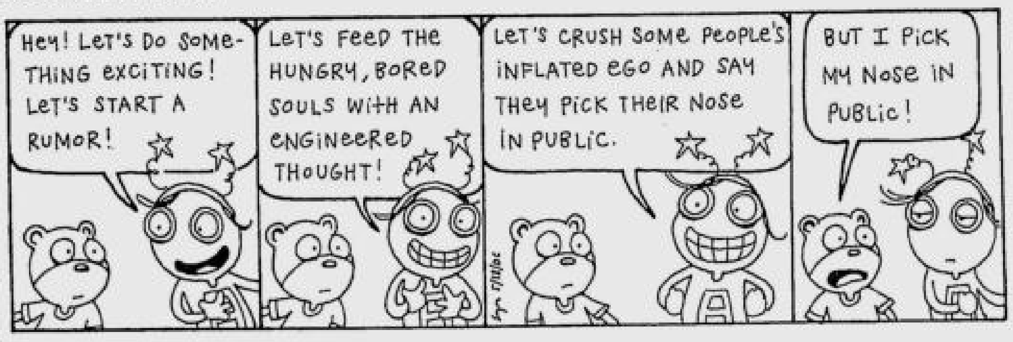
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


BEA, DO WE HAVE AN EGG TIMER?
WHY? ARE YOU GOING TO COOK SOMETHING?
I WANT TO TRY DOING YUNOKLU WHILE RACING AGAINST THE CLOCK
5-18

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I DON'T GET IT! WHY DOESN'T WREN WANT TO HUG ME ANYMORE?
MAYBE IT'S JUST A PHASE SHE'S GOING THROUGH.
AWWW! WHAT A NICE HUG!
YEAH... THE OLD "I-LOVE-EVERY-BODY-BUT-MY MOMMY" PHASE.
HEY, COME ON! ENOUGH KISSES ALREADY!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey! Let's do something exciting! Let's start a rumor!
Let's feed the hungry, bored souls with an engineered thought!
Let's crush some people's inflated ego and say they pick their nose in public.
But I pick my nose in public!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're conscientious, reliable and serious about what you do. You're traditional, yet you have modern, cutting-edge ideas. Justice matters to you. You're idealistic, yet practical. You like to share your opinions. You're loyal to family, and in your later years, you're keen to establish a secure base for your loved ones. Work hard to build or construct something.
Birthdate of: John Paul II, religious leader; Perry Como, crooner; Chow Yun-Fat, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel passionately about money issues today, or perhaps a particular possession that you own. You're not really in the mood to share. You're going to defend your turf!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If you have any disputes with others today, they had better look out! You strongly identify with your own point of view today. (And you're prepared to let anyone else know.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your ability to research or ferret out answers to questions is wonderful today. There is nothing that is too much trouble. You will pick up every rock and look under it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with friends or perhaps members of groups are very heated and intense today. People (including you) are discussing issues that they really believe in.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be diplomatic with bosses and parents today. You identify so strongly with your ideas that you might appear threatening to others! It's OK to believe what you believe, but do it graciously.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Heated arguments about politics or religion are possible today. That's because people identify with their beliefs. (Note: Since most people were not reasoned into their beliefs, they cannot be reasoned out of them.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have the mind of a sleuth today. Because you're thinking like an investigator, you will probably learn how much money somebody else makes. (Perhaps this person is quite close to you.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with partners and close friends are quite intense today. Don't let others coerce you into agreeing with them. (And don't coerce them into agreeing with you.)

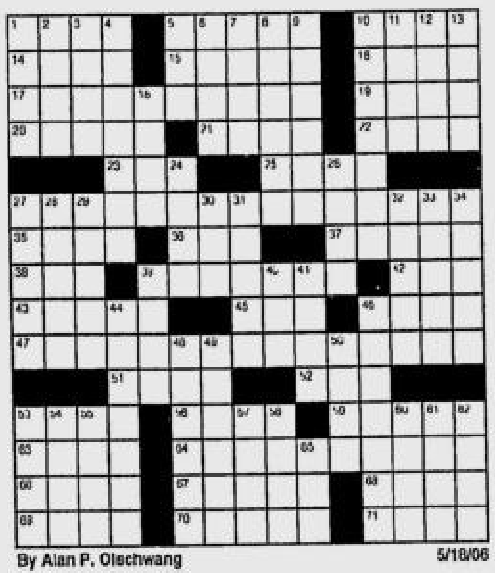
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Coworkers are ready to listen to your suggestions at work today. Don't be afraid to speak up. If you have a bright idea, share it with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): It's a wonderful, playful, flirtatious day. Enjoy yourself. Spend time with children and on children's activities if you have this privilege.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Family discussions (probably involving a parent) are lively today. You definitely have something to say. Speak your piece, and listen to others as well.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Do not run roughshod over other people's ideas, especially during discussions with relatives and siblings. (Speaking louder will not help people hear you any better.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

5/18/06

ACROSS

1 Indonesian island
5 Breakfast fast food
10 High cards
14 Lena of "Alias"
15 14th-cen. Russian ruler
16 Volcanic flow
17 Start of Evan Esar quip
19 Pre-owned
20 Soundtrack
21 Symbolic cross
22 Insignificant
23 Test for srs.
25 Pitcher Nolan
27 Part 2 of quip
35 Ex-QB Starr
36 Subj. for Billy Graham
37 Pop vocalist Bryson
38 Needle feature
39 Part 3 of quip
42 "The Bridge of San Luis __"
43 Goose genus
45 Common Market abbr.
46 Town near Caen
47 Part 4 of quip
51 Backside
52 __ de plume
53 Gemstone from Down Under
56 Bonkers
59 Audience divider
63 Long skirt
64 End of quip
66 Sweeping story
67 Actor Werner
68 Bread choices
69 Writer Ogden
70 Socialite Perle
71 Maneuverable, at sea

DOWN

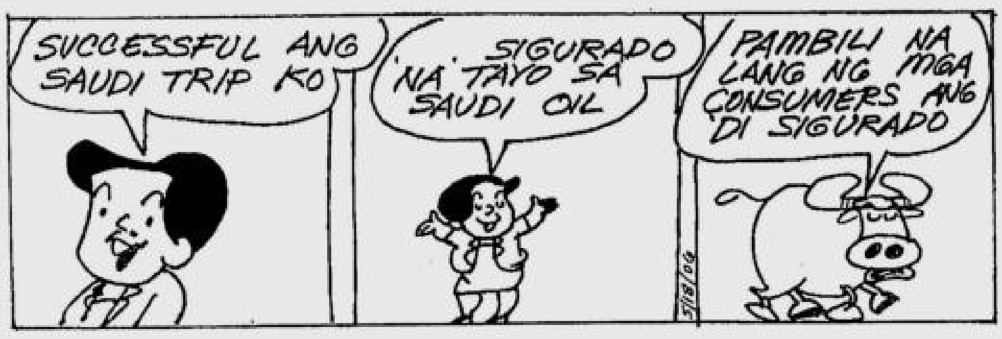
1 __ Raton, FL
2 Slugger Moises
3 The Swedish Nightingale
4 Keen understanding
5 Half of MIV
6 Above
7 One-billionth: pref.
8 Open, as wine
9 Color fabric, '60s-style
10 Female graduates
11 Court proceeding
12 Of all time
13 Marquis de __
18 Mrs. Dithers of "Blondie"
24 To be in Toulon
26 Small snakes
27 Construction girder
28 Decline
29 Take by force
30 Actor Gibson
31 Paris passage
32 "The Sot-Weed Factor" author
33 Ancient manuscript markings
34 Spinning toys
39 Elder or alder
40 Playboy's founder, fondly
41 P.C. image
44 German bacteriologist
46 Somewhat arid
48 Kidnapper's demand
49 Dust-up memento
50 Crowd noise
53 Sign
54 Mama's mate
55 WWII losers
57 Clicking sounds
58 Box-score brief
60 Forage crop
61 Wolfish look
62 Latin being
65 Hurler's stat

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

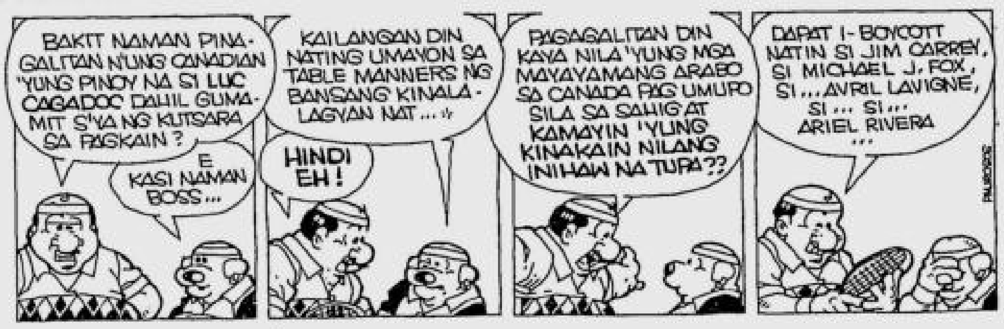
T	E	M	P	S	■	A	R	T	S	■	M	A	R	S
A	V	I	L	A	■	B	O	R	A	■	A	D	E	N
B	E	S	O	M	■	S	T	E	N	■	N	A	P	E
■	■	T	Y	P	E	E	A	N	D	T	Y	P	E	A
A	P	R	■	A	N	N	■	C	S	A	■	T	A	D
S	R	I	■	N	A	T	C	H	■	M	A	S	T	S
S	O	A	R	■	M	I	O	■	S	I	R	■	■	■
■	P	L	A	N	O	A	N	D	P	L	A	N	B	■
■	■	■	M	A	R	■	C	E	E	■	L	O	R	E
C	L	A	P	S	■	C	H	A	N	T	■	S	E	T
O	O	O	■	T	R	A	■	O	D	E	■	E	W	E
H	A	R	D	Y	A	N	D	H	A	R	D	C	■	■
O	N	T	O	■	C	O	R	E	■	E	R	O	D	E
R	E	A	L	■	E	L	I	A	■	D	A	N	E	S
T	R	E	E	■	R	A	P	T	■	O	M	E	N	S

(C)2006 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.
5/18/06

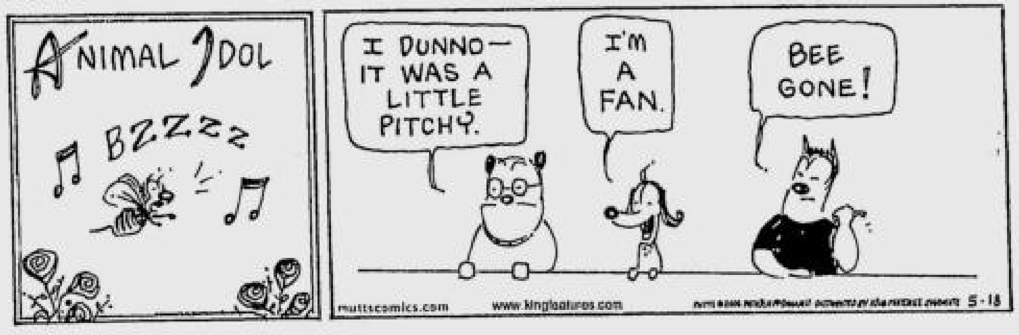
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SUCCESSFUL ANG SAUDI TRIP KO
SIGURADO 'NA' TAYO SA SAUDI OIL
PAMBILI NA LANG NG MGA CONSUMERS ANG DI SIGURADO
5/18/06

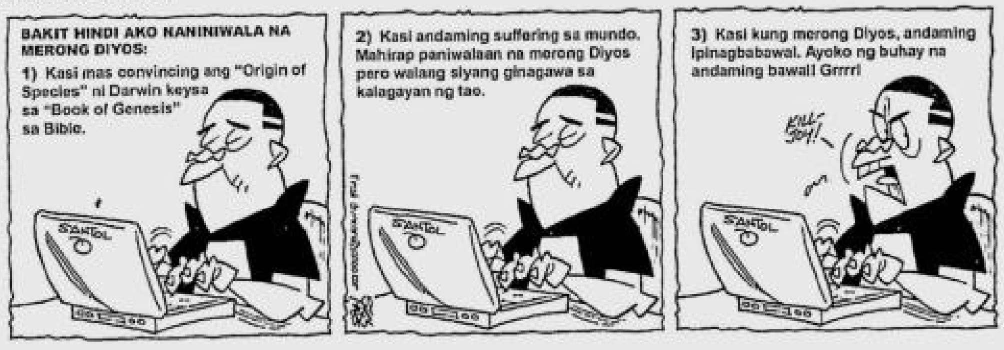
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT NAMAN PINAGALITAN N'UNG CANADIAN 'YUNG PINOY NA SI LUC CAGADOC DAHIL GUMAMIT S'YA NG KUTSARA SA PAGKAIN?
E KASI NAMAN BOSS...
KAILANGAN DIN NATING UMAYON SA TABLE MANNERS NG BANSANG KINALALAGYAN NAT...
HINDI EH!
PAGAGALITAN DIN KAYA NILA 'YUNG MGA MAYAYAMANG ARABO SA CANADA PAG UMUPO SILA SA SAHIG AT KAMAYIN 'YUNG KINAKAIN NILANG INIHAW NA TUPA??
DAPAT I-BOYCOTT NATIN SI JIM CARREY, SI MICHAEL J. FOX, SI... AVRIL LAVIGNE, SI... SI... ARIEL RIVERA ...

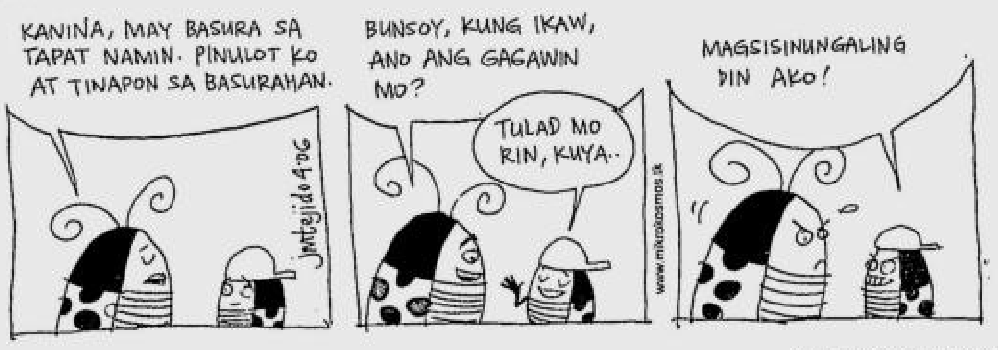
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ANIMAL IDOL
BZZZZ
I DUNNO— IT WAS A LITTLE PITCHY.
I'M A FAN.
BEE GONE!
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
5-18

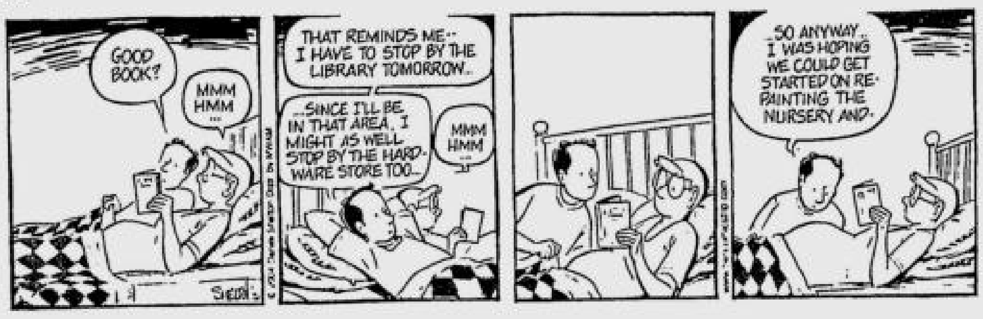
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BAKIT HINDI AKO NANINIWALA NA MERONG DIYOS:
1) Kasi mas convincing ang "Origin of Species" ni Darwin keysa sa "Book of Genesis" sa Bible.
2) Kasi andaming suffering sa mundo. Mahirap paniwalaan na merong Diyos pero walang siyang ginagawa sa kalagayan ng tao.
3) Kasi kung merong Diyos, andaming ipinagbabawal. Ayoko ng buhay na andaming bawal! Grrrr!
KILL JOY!
SANTOL

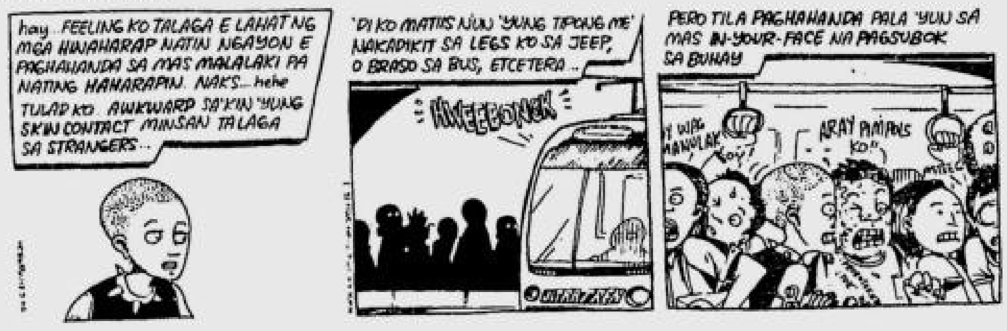
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KANINA, MAY BASURA SA TAPAT NAMIN. PINULOT KO AT TINAPON SA BASURAHAN.
BUNSOY, KUNG IKAW, ANO ANG GAGAWIN MO?
TULAD MO RIN, KUYA..
MAGSISINUNGALING DIN AKO!
www.mikrokosmos.tk

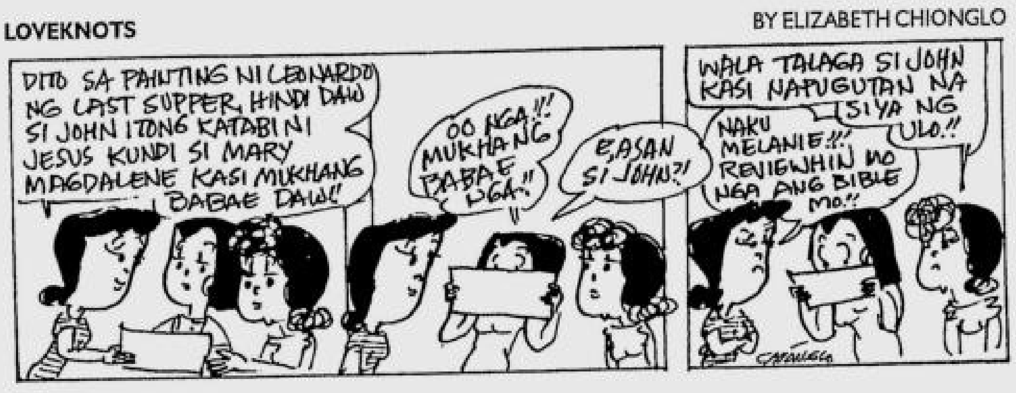
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOOD BOOK?
MMM HMM ...
THAT REMINDS ME... I HAVE TO STOP BY THE LIBRARY TOMORROW..
...SINCE I'LL BE IN THAT AREA, I MIGHT AS WELL STOP BY THE HARDWARE STORE TOO..
MMM HMM ...
..SO ANYWAY.. I WAS HOPING WE COULD GET STARTED ON REPAINTING THE NURSERY AND-

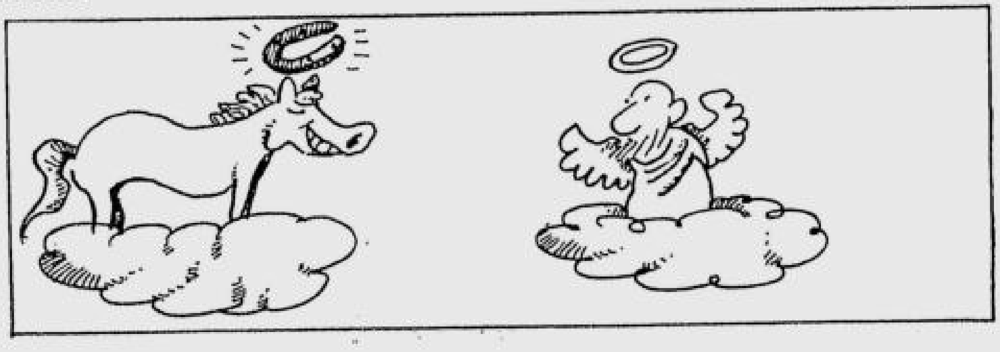
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

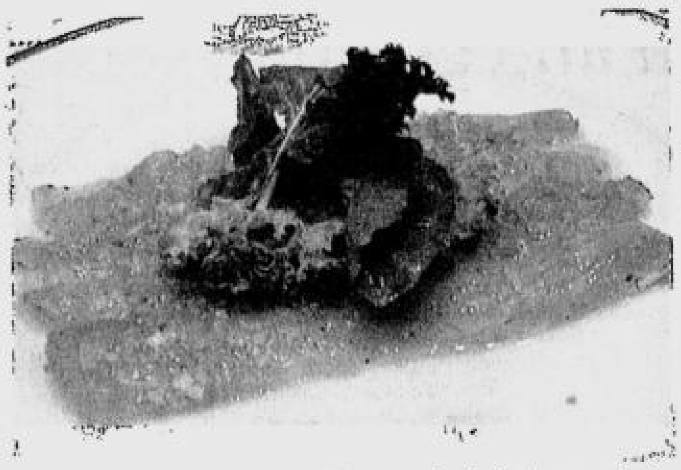

hay.. FEELING KO TALAGA E LAHAT NG MGA HINAHARAP NATIN NGAYON E PAGHAHANDA SA MAS MALALAKI PA NATING HAHARAPIN. NAKS... hehe
TULAD KO.. AWKWARD SA'KIN 'YUNG SKIN CONTACT MINSAN TALAGA SA STRANGERS...
'DI KO MATIIS NUN 'YUNG TIPONG ME' NAKADIKIT SA LEGS KO SA JEEP, O BRASO SA BUS, ETCETERA...
HWEEEBONGK
PERO TILA PAGHAHANDA PALA 'YUN SA MAS IN-YOUR-FACE NA PAGSUBOK SA BUHAY
ARAY PAPAPAS KO

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DITO SA PAINTING NI LEONARDO NG LAST SUPPER, HINDI DAW SI JOHN ITONG KATABI NI JESUS KUNDI SI MARY MAGDALENE KASI MUKHANG BABAE DAW!
OO NGA!! MUKHANG BABAE NGA!!
EASAN SI JOHN?!
WALA TALAGA SI JOHN KASI NAPUGUTAN NA SIYA NG ULO!!
NAKU MELANIE!!! REVIEWHIN MO NGA ANG BIBLE MO!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





TEA-CURED salmon with pickled ginger and eschallot (green onion) dressing

The art of good living, Aussie-style

Culinary, winemaking, visual and musical arts were well represented during a dinner at the ambassador's home

CHEFS Carlos and Anton Miguel

EMMA O'Reilly of Swings and Roundabouts winery

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Tony Hely, with senior trade commissioner Alan Morrel, the ambassador's wife Wendy Jeffery and Mike Edwards of Edwards Wines, welcomes guests.

By Michaela Fenix

WINES, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY are good, make for livelier company.

And so the small dinner party at the residence of the Australian ambassador Tony Hely, hosted by Alan Morrel, senior trade commissioner, had the walls resounding with talk and laughter from the moment cocktails were served.

The wines featured that evening were from Western Australia, in the favored area known as Margaret River. Perth, the capital, should be mentioned to give some geographic perspective.

Emma O'Reilly represented a winery with the playful name of Swings and Roundabouts. The name contrasts with the formal winery names of the Old World (read: French and Italian).

STRAWBERRY pavlova

Mike Edwards represented his company, Edwards Wines, where he is not only owner but also winemaker.

All their wines are available locally at the Wine Depot.

We were all greeted with a cool light Semillon Sauvignon Blanc '05 from Swings and Roundabouts. That was served with a duck and chicken liver parfait with a covering of port wine jelly, both complementing each other.

That was the first offering from chefs Carlos and Anton Miguel, two old hands at blending food with wine. The Miguel brothers studied culinary arts in Australia but have since settled in their home country to cook for small parties.

Before dinner was served, a bit of entertainment involved the *didgeridoo* played by a foremost musical artist, Troy Bennell. The traditional musical instrument, made from the bark of a tree and decorated with aboriginal art, was able to approximate any sound or tonè Bennell wanted.

After setting the Australian mood with didgeridoo music and some works of Australian artists around the cocktail area, an amuse bouche of lobster tortellini was served.

Appetizer was tea-cured salmon with pickled ginger and eschallot (green onion) dressing.

A more full-bodied Edwards Sauvignon Blanc '05 was paired with the salmon. According to Edwards, sauvignon blanc is the new chardonnay. The winemaker says the grapes for this wine shouldn't be too ripe.

A fish dish came next, barramundi with green harissa and a coriander salad. It was paired with, from Swings and Roundabouts, Kiss Chasey Chardonnay Semillon Sauvignon Blanc '05. Kiss Chasey, it was explained, was a children's game. The combination of three grape varietals made the name long but produced a citrus apple flavor.

O'Reilly says there is just a bit of chardonnay to this mix and the blending of semillon and sauvignon blanc is characteristic of Margaret River wines.

Braised lamb shank with minted pea risotto was not as heavy as one thought it would be. Maybe the wine, an Edwards Cabernet Sauvignon '04, helped. It was elegant and quite delicate rather than robust.

As is their style, the Miguel brothers informed diners about every course. They said the strawberry and mascarpone Pavlova was straight from the recipe book because it never failed them. It was a great dessert to finish our cabernet sauvignon, as well.

The evening was an experience in the art of good living, indeed. Culinary, winemaking, visual and musical arts were well-represented.

The Unicorn
THIRD EYE DISK

*The original creation of a Filipino Mystic named, **MIGUEL C. NATOR**, which is a channel for the specific purpose of calibrating the energies of your 3rd Eye & synchronizing them to another psychic eye.*

Learn in this one-day seminar a very powerful technique to accelerate clear-seeing & the soulful meditation to achieve oneness.

Held every Saturday / Sunday (chose one)
From May to December 2006
Time: 8 AM–5 PM Fee: P 5,000
Call SUFI-ISIS 4540145 / 09192909111
7C DLC Bldg, 21 Araneta Ave, Quezon City

The Joy of Discovering
1
2
3
Thailand 2006
HAPPINESS ON EARTH

Thailand boasts of well-preserved natural sanctuaries that blend well with historical man-made structures. **1** View of coast in Surat **2** - **3** Temples and distinctive Thai residential structures amid nature in the Central East

A Spectacular Year-Long Celebration of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 60th anniversary of His Accession to the Throne.

Exciting events await you all-year round. Don't miss them!

Stroll along the streets suspended in time. Discover a pristine culture yet in pace with the cosmoplitan world of today. Traditions and heritage preserved for you to enjoy.

You'll find no other place on Earth quite like Thailand.

Thailand
HAPPINESS ON EARTH

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND
P.O. Box 319 ACPO, Cubao, Quezon City, 1100 METRO MANILA, Philippines
Telefax: (63-2) 9111660 • Email: tat_mnl@pacific.net.ph • Website: tourismthailand.org

CENTER FOR ASIAN CULINARY STUDIES
CAFÉ YSABEL RESTAURANT
455 P. Guevarra Street, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos. 725-5089 / 726-9326
www.cafeysabel.com
Email: cafeysabel@mydestiny.net

MAY - JUNE SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

May 16, Tuesday - CHEESECAKE. Delicious cheesecake from Pastry Chef - Instructor, Chef Hannah Herrera will be demonstrated in this class. The recipes are Cheesecake parfait, Low-Sugar Cheesecake, Light Cheesecake, Mocha & Choco-Chip Cheesecake, Caramel Pecan Cheesecake and Rich Oreo Cheesecake. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,800.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

May 22, Monday - THE QUICHE CLASS. Pastry Chef - Instructor, Chef Hannah Herrera will be demonstrating classic pastry dough making in this Quiche Class. The recipes are Quiche Lorraine, Brie and Chive Quiche, Caramelized Onion and Feta Quiche, Roasted Bell Pepper Quiche and Smoked Salmon Quiche for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

May 24, Wednesday - KIDS IN THE KITCHEN 3. The last of Chef Ana's Kids in the Kitchen series, the recipes are Baked Honey Mustard Chicken, Baked Lasagna, Apple Cookies and Oreo Cheesecake for P1,300.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

May 30, Tuesday - BASIC BREAD MAKING. Master Baker from Australia Mike Rossiter will teach you the secrets of successful breadmaking for White Bread, Pan De Sal, Francis Rolls and European Bread Rolls. One on one instruction. Recipes include all ingredients. P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 31, Wednesday - ADVANCED BREAD MAKING. Master Baker from Australia Mike Rossiter teaches you the secrets of successful breadmaking for French Baguette, English Brown Bread, Cinnamon Raisin Bread, Walnut & Sultana Bread. One on one instruction. Recipes include all ingredients. P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

June 01, Thursday - CROISSANT & DANISH PASTRIES. Master Baker from Australia Mike Rossiter teaches you the secrets of successful Croissant and Danish Pastry making. Learn how to make successful Croissants and mouth watering varieties of Danish Pastry.. One on one instruction. Recipes include all ingredients P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

June 02, Friday - CHOCOLATE TEMPTATIONS. This class is a must for anyone with a passion to create a dazzling chocolate desserts. Chef Adoree Chong-Uy will demonstrate a variety of specialties like Double Chocolate Rum Cake, Fudgy Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Blitz Torte, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Peanut Butter Dome and Graham Chocolate Roulade for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

COOKING CLASSES

May 15, Monday - A TASTE OF VIETNAM 7. A new set of recipes from our Vietnamese Chef, Chef Annie De Lemos will be demonstrated in this class. The recipes are Bo Nuong Mot Ong (Honey Beef with Vegetables and Rice Paper), Cha Gio Cua (Crab Fried Spring Roll), Goi Trai Xu (Vegetable Salad), Suong Nuong (Grilled Spareribs), Bun Ha Gio Thit Nuong (Fresh Noodles with Spring Roll and Barbeque) and Dau Do Banh Lot (Red Beans with Coconut Milk) for P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

May 18, Thursday - PASTA IN A FLASH 2. Another 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Porcini with Cambozola Sauce, Roasted Walnut Gorgonzola Sauce, Truffle Scented Liver Sauce, Seafood with Hazelnut Butter Sauce, Scallop and Shrimp Saffron Sauce, Chorizo and Chicken Tomato Cream, Mushroom Pancetta in Olive oil, Chicken and Shrimp Pesto are recipes from Chef Gino. For P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m.

May 21, Sunday - JAPANESE NOODLES AND RICE TOPPINGS. Chef Hiromi Ogino will be teaching us new set of recipes from her hometown, the recipes include Green Tea Tofu Mousse, Mix Tempura, Tendon (Tempura Rice Topping), Tempura Soba (Hot Buckwheat Noodles with Tempura), Zaru Soba (Cold Buckwheat Noodles), Nabeyaki Udon (Noodles in Hot Pot) and Gyudon (Beef Bowl) from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. for P1,300.00 NEW CLASS.

May 23, Tuesday - PIZZA & PASTA WORKSHOP. Café Ysabel Chef, Chef Toto Erfe will be teaching us basic pizza and pasta dough with sauces that can be used on pizza and on pasta at the same time. Recipes include Sausages and Caramelized Onion, Pesto-Tomato with Peppered Shrimp Sauce, Bacon and Cheeseburger Sauce, Truffle Scented Three Mushroom Sauce, Pepperoni, Salami and Roasted Pepper Sauce and Classic Puttanesca Sauce. The fee of P1,500.00 includes all ingredients from 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

May 28, Sunday - FAMILY AND PARTY TABLE DELIGHTS 2. Sequel to Chef Lawrence's family and party table delights 1, here's another set of recipes that everyone will enjoy to cook for the whole family. Recipes are Whole Lapu-lapu with Sauce Chantilly, Roast Chicken with Celery and Ham Stuffing, Roast Crispy Pork Ribs with Apricot and Peach Sauce, Harvest Salad with Red Raspberry Dressing, Baked Stuffed Mushrooms, Pasta Negra with Baby Squid and Apple Crumble with Butter Veloute and Vanilla Ice Cream for P1,800.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 04, Sunday - DELICIOUS & HEALTHY SNACKS. Delicious and healthy snacks will be demonstrated by our Pastry Chef Hannah Herrera for us to enjoy and learn. The recipes are Whole Wheat Crackers, White Saltine Crackers, Black and White Healthy Crackers, Smoked Salmon Pate, Mushroom Pate, Basil pesto and Tomato-Basil Tapenade for P1,300.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 05, Monday - A TASTE OF VIETNAM 8. Once again, new dishes from Chef Annie De Lemos will be demonstrated in this class. The recipes are Ca Lop Hap (Steamed Stuffed Mudfish with Vegetables and Rice Paper), Bun Ga Nuong (Fresh Noodles with Spring Roll), Canh Chua Tom (Vietnamese Sour Soup with Shrimps and Pineapples, Ga Xao Gung (Chicken Sauteed with Ginger), Goi Cu Hu Dua (Ubod Salad) and Chuoi Nuong (Grilled Banana with Coconut Milk) for P1,300.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 06, Tuesday - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS. Let Chef Gino teach you recipes and costings that can be used for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Waldorf Salad, Mixed Mushroom Parmesan Pasta, Chicken Croquettes with Honey Mustard Garlic Sauce, Lapu-lapu with Caper Buerre Blanc, Pork Roast Stuffed with Port Wine Gravy and Mango Crepe Surprise for P2,000.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m

June 07, Wednesday - SALAD AND SALAD DRESSINGS. Easy to prepare Salad recipes from our Cake-Decorator and Pastry Chef Ana Baluyut. The recipes are Tropical Fruit with Banana Dressing, Oriental Chicken Salad, Curried Rice Chicken and Fruit Salad, Thai Pork Salad, Crab Salad and Turkey and Potato Salad. The recipes include all ingredients for P1,300.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

June 08, Thursday - CATERING AND ENTERTAINING SPECIALS 2. Once again, Chef Gino will teach you more recipes that's good for Catering events and parties. Recipes include Grape, Olive and Anchovy Salad; Beef Lasagna; Seabass Meuniere Braised in Sauce Nantua; Gino's Baby Back Ribs; Potatoes Dauphinoise and Dolce Tostada for P2,000.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m

OTHER CLASSES OFFERING

FOOD STYLING WORKSHOP - Watch out for the schedule of our 7 days Food Styling Workshop with Chefs Gino, Gene and Junjun plus a lecture from one of the top Food Stylist in town. For more details on workshop dates, registration fees and other requirements please call: 725-5089, 726-9326 and look for Marilyn Espino and Glady Zamora.

FOOD WRITING WORKSHOP - Learn the generalized rules of being a food critique with a sense of responsibility in the Philippine setting. You will learn that perfect composition of words and adjectives are not enough to document the current culinary hype, and to where your tongues and pens will take our society's most colorful culinary stories that encourage our very own cultural survival. This 2 weekend workshop is inclusive of basic food criticism, culinary demos, food appreciation guide, readings, anthropological counter-readings, hands-on writing, restaurant review, cooking basics, food coverage and eating discussions to equip an aspirant food writer the knowledge on how to be published in different newspapers and culinary magazines. For more details on workshop dates, registration fees and other requirements please call: 725-5089, 726-9326 and look for Marilyn Espino and Glady Zamora

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques from the finest institutions abroad with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian and Halal cooking, wine appreciation, gastronomy, table service and back of the house operations.

TESDA ACCREDITED PROGRAM. This program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also prepare buffets and be involved in actual functions.

Learn the CACS method and be the Global Chef! Our program is the only school with its own restaurant outlet and its own internship program of 400 hours and Externship or an outside practicum program of 300 hours. It is also the only program with the mostly widely used software hospitality system worldwide that gives its graduates the global edge. Enrollment includes 3 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used. **NO HIDDEN COSTS!**

Classes will start on June. MWF Schedule for 10:00 am - 4:00 pm or 5:00 - 11:00 pm. Enrollment is ongoing.
For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.

Clean and green fiestas

THE CONSUMER

By Linda B. Bolido

FIESTAS ARE held all year round throughout the Philippines.

But such events not only mean food, merrymaking and revelry but also waste—a lot of it, in fact—the way they are traditionally celebrated. From food packaging to *banderitas* to firecrackers, fiestas mean a lot of trash to be dealt with the morning after. They also use up a lot of water and electricity and can cause severe strain on the environment.

The Ecological Waste Coalition of the Philippines (Ecowaste Coalition) says a mountain of trash need not be the inevitable consequence of fiestas. It offers tips on zero-waste and nonpolluting celebration.

For instance, instead of plastic and other inorganic materials for decoration, communities can use things that can be reused, recycled or composted like locally available biodegradable materials.

Plants and other greenery are more eco-friendly than plastic streamers, buntings or balloons. At the end of the festivities, decorations should be removed, washed and stored so they can be reused.

Recycling stations may be put up where people can bring their trash for sorting. To the many people given responsibility for fiesta arrangements, organizers should add "ecowaste patrols" that will assist in the ecological management of discards.

Food concessionaires and vendors should be encouraged to use reusable or biodegradable alternatives like banana leaves, instead of disposable containers and utensils.

In processions, candles which do not yield excessive soot and are not likely to release toxic substances like lead should be used. Better yet, reduce the need for candles by holding the procession in daylight. The use of firecrackers or pyrotechnics that adversely affect air quality should be minimized.

The menu should be carefully planned. Food should only be sufficient for expected guests. Meals and drinks should be served in reusable containers.

Condiments should be bought in bulk and stored in reusable bottles, shakers or dispensers. Cloth napkins that can be washed and used again are better than paper.

Instead of soda, offer water or healthy drinks like *tanglad*, *buko* with *pandan*, or *salabat* with calamansi.

Excess food should be shared with neighbors and people in need of adequate and nutritious food.

Discarded food should be saved for animal consumption or composting. Waste should be segregated and recycled. Discarded items should not be mixed, dumped or burned.

For more information, contact the Ecowaste Coalition at 9290376 or e-mail Manny Calonzo at manny.gaia@no-burn.org

Feedback

Reader Peachie Filarca wants to commend SC Johnson & Son for superb customer service. She said she bought a single Glade Magic Gel Decor 150g Cool Lime and kept it in storage. But, when it was time to use it, she found the container empty.

She called the company only wanting to inform them of the problem. The company's Quality Assurance Department readily replaced the item not just with one but two pieces. Commendable indeed!

Meanwhile, Grover C. Guillermo, manager of the SM North Edsa branch, sent a letter of apology to reader Grace V. Ramoy for the rude behavior of two department store employees. Guillermo assured Ramoy the employees had been warned that they faced disciplinary action if the incident was repeated.

Ramoy complained that her sister was laughed at and made fun of by the employees. She said "this is the second time my sister experienced this from SM Department Store's staff." She added that her sister had a heart problem and she was concerned that such rudeness could be too stressful as to endanger her health.

Personal note

I beg the readers' indulgence as I add this personal note. Class 1967 of the Masbate High School (now National Comprehensive High School) will have a 40th anniversary reunion May 19-20, 2007. Members of Class '67 may call or text Marina (Verano) Merioles, 0910-3595261; and Evelyn (Martires) Udaundo, 0928-3561480 or 4543934.

(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati, or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)

Irresistible Baguio!

From June 1 to September 30 this year, enjoy the crisp air, mountain vistas and colonial ambiance at the Camp John Hay Manor at special discounted prices. It's 50% off for a minimum of two (2) nights stay. Savor the classic charm of old Baguio amid the world class golf course, manicured grounds and pine gardens of the Camp John Hay Manor. Dine on gourmet masterpieces by famed chef Billy King.
Relive the Baguio of your memories at the Camp John Hay Manor.

Ideal for balikbayans, family reunions and barkada outings

Enjoy special room rates for a minimum of two(2) nights

Type of room	Capacity	Rates	Irresistible Baguio Promo Rates
Superior Room	2 persons	~~P4,300~~	P2,150/room/night
De Luxe Room	2 persons	~~P4,800~~	P2,400/room/night
1-Bedroom Suite	3 persons	~~P6,300~~	P3,150/room/night
2-Bedroom Suite	5 persons	~~P9,300~~	P4,650/room/night
Honeymoon Cottage	2 persons	~~P10,000~~	P5,000/room/night
Extra person and/or bed		P800.00	

Above room rates are subject to prevailing Special Economic Zone VAT

For details and bookings call:
Baguio: (074) 446-0231 to 50
Baguio hotline : (632) 845-0892, 845-0911
Facsimile: (074) 445-0420
Manila: (632) 687-6710/6524 Facsimile: (632) 687-6607

cjhmanor@skyinet.net
www.campjohnhayhotels.com

CAMP JOHN HAY MANOR

Camp John Hay, Loakan Road, Baguio City, Philippines 2600

T.G.I.F.

Thank Goodness It's Five days.

If you don't get a decision on your home loan application in 5 days or less, we'll give you 1% off on your first year interest rate.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

Get it now at any PSBank branch nationwide.
For more information: Call us: 845-8772 Text us: PSBANK HOME AD <your name> <landline nos.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-890-2327 for Globe and other users
Email us: info@psbank.com.ph
Offer runs from April 24, 2006 up to June 30, 2006. See flyers for details.

PSBank Home LOAN
Real property. Real fast.

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

World Class Marketing Innovations

It is clear today that innovation is the rising dictator over the world of tomorrow and as a crucial principle, it must spread from the marketing department into the boardroom. The Philippine Marketing Association's 37th National Marketing Conference (NMC) highlights innovation as a driver of business growth and an ideology that must be embraced by leaders of local industries. It is not only a means by which to get ahead but for some, it means survival in a fiercely competitive environment.

More than instilling and cultivating a progressive mindset that is renewed in its approach of innovation, the conference theme, All That Jazz: World-Class Innovations, shares a truly new and unique experience that cannot be missed. Enter a world of a never-before-seen production that flaunts the soulful music of a live jazz band, the internationally-acclaimed artistry of a Filipino idol, the vibrancy of larger than life works of art, exclusive opportunities to test drive the world's dynamic luxury cars and all that jazz.

Marking a milestone in Philippine Marketing Association history, the 37th National Marketing Conference offers an experience that breaks the boundaries of the traditional learning environment and its innovations demonstrate creativity that is both Filipino and world-class. Here is a jumpstart of local ingenuity and global recognition going hand and hand, let's look forward to a future that continues to combine both with innovation in the driver's seat.

New music, new instruments

It's like a good old song played hundreds of times. The ideas behind marketing have played on and on in our minds for as long as we can remember. But generations are now in flux, times are changing and so must our business approach. It's time to play the good old songs in a new mix.

Jos Ortega, chair of the National Marketing Conference (NMC) and CEO of BrandLab has crafted a remix of an old song. According to him, the only way to keep up with this surge of life redefined is, in turn, rethinking the way we understand our consumers and their needs. He identifies progressive marketing trends that will lead the way to stronger Filipino businesses going global. He has designed the NMC and its avant-garde theme, "All That Jazz: World-Class Innovations" in a way that will cultivate and instill fresh marketing developments into the local mindset.

Innovation is the first step to stirring the marketing movement. It is no longer a matter of just research and development nor is it a luxury by which market leaders get even further ahead, innovation is today the fundamental driver of business growth. Innovation begins in the boardroom. One of this year's NMC speakers Rene Almendras, president of Cebu Holdings Inc and vice president/head of operation transformation for Ayala Land will be expounding on "The Art of Innovation", showing how a unique vision starts with open-minded leaders and corporate transformation from the inside out.

Because creativity is so integral to innovation, companies must break down traditional barriers and introduce new facilities to cultivate ingenuity. Leaders should allow ideas to grow because while it may appear unsightly as it sprouts, it may blossom quite beautifully.

ALL
THAT
JAZZ

Originality needs to be embraced by business leaders and as a prime example the NMC brings in Butch Jimenez, SVP-Retail Business Group, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, speaking on "Building a Culture of Innovation". Jimenez will discuss changing the standard, motivating the employees and breaking down the corporate hierarchies that impair many companies today.

Another NMC guest, head of marketing Sandeep Khanna, hails from a company that has utilized innovation to dominate the mobile communications industry not only in the Philippines but also on a global scale. He will share the insights behind Nokia "Maintaining Market Leadership through Product Innovations" and highlight how important creativity is for a market that constantly evolves.

Stabilizing the romanticism of new ideas, Lorenzo Tan, president and CEO of Sun Life of Canada, makes innovation accountable. At the end of the day, it is the ROI that keeps a company going and Tan promotes "Driving Innovations with Fiscal Soundness" to ensure a practical side to an artistic vision. Furthering the idea of accountable creativity is Paul Roebuck, whose agency, BBDO Guerrero Ortega, was recognized as the most creative ad agency in the Philippines by Campaign Brief Asia. He will highlight the importance of demonstrating strategic focus on delivering market results amidst winning awards.

In discussing marketing trends, ideas work best when presented from the worldview of the consumers. NMC presents "New Research Techniques in an Innovative Environment" with managing partner of Good Thinking, Issa Baron. Although most techniques have been tried and tested this age requires new methods that are aligned with modern day problems.

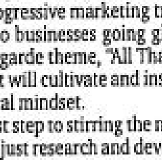
Beyond traditional marketing, innovations are playing a major role in corporate social responsibility. Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will be discussing the value of partnerships that benefit the community. Community building then is not an option for spare time and funds but is a central part of a company's brand and business plan.

Finally, there is the evolving role of brands beyond just a marketing tool. Brand building is the force behind Filipino companies making it international. With this, Martin Roll, president of VentureRepublic, a strategic advisor on branding excellence, will expound on "Asian Brand Strategy: A New Boardroom Paradigm." This means elevating discussions on the brand from the marketing department to the board level as it drives the whole company.

In the same way, Joerg Breuer, president of BMW Philippines, delves into "The Brand as the Central Operating Principle" and stresses that every company decision must be driven by the values of the brand. From design to employees, from sales to engineering, its vision should be clearly manifested.

In addition, the NMC will feature Abbott Philippines, a pharmaceutical industry leader, directed by a leader who is also the brand pioneer, Edwin Feist. As president of Abbott Philippines and regional director for Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, Feist pilots the creative process of brand building, emphasizing that innovation starts in the boardroom. Moreover, Johnlu Koa of French Baker demonstrates the importance of making day-to-day decisions based on a precise and purposeful vision. Professor JJ Roces of the Asian Institute of Management moderates the creativity discussions with Ariel Manuel of Lolodad's, Ed Calma of Lor Calma Designs and Rajo Laurel of House of Laurel. Lastly, Audie Gemora of Stages Productions will demonstrate how to dramatically increase your batting average in the boardroom when selling your ideas.

Messages



Warmest felicitations to the organizers, participants and guests in the 37th National Marketing Conference of the Philippine Marketing Association.

Our Government welcomes the holding of this conference with the theme, "ALL THAT JAZZ: World-Class Innovations." We support the further improvement of the already impressive skills of our marketing practitioners. We are confident that this event on creativity and innovation will raise the standards of the Philippine marketing industry, thereby contributing to a more robust economy.

Congratulations to the PMA for its more than five decades of promoting marketing as a profession guided by the principles of ethics and corporate citizenship and social responsibility. May you continue to be government's invaluable partner in working for the welfare of the consuming public, promoting free enterprise and spurring economic growth.

I wish you all the success of your conference. More power and mabuhay to our Filipino marketing professionals!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

Satellites, computers, wireless communications, digital technology have compressed geography so that virtually anybody, anywhere can only be a fingertip away on a cell phone.

And because even the latest technology can now be accessible anywhere, consumer lifestyles have changed in a way we used to imagine only in the movies. As a result, we are confronted by an even more competitive global business environment where only the finest, the most prepared and innovative can expect to survive.

That is why the association chose for its theme "Move Up to World-class. Kaya Natin."

World-class defines a clear performance standard which is exacting, demanding and stringent. It is the performance standard local marketers must aim for to build a competitive business. And Filipino marketers have the capability to compete on this standard as demonstrated by Globe, San Miguel Corporation, Jolibee, PLDT, just to name a few.

The association is determined to inculcate this mindset among its membership and marketing practitioners in general, through programs throughout the year that will inspire, stimulate and nourish a world-class attitude and standard for marketing.

"World-class innovations… and All that Jazz" is the association's showcase presentation of a world-class program, world-class resource persons, and world-class staging.

We take great pride in hosting a world-class National Marketing Conference. Enjoy it!

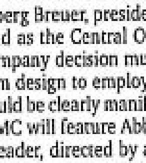
TOM C. BANGUIS, JR.
President
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

All that Jazz: World-Class Innovations is about empowering local businesses to cross the threshold of international industries. More than driving motivation in order to raise the bar this theme means imparting knowledge and providing practical tools that can be applied in the workplace. The 37th National Marketing Conference is truly an innovation in itself as it transforms conventional learning environments and revamps the ways in which information is presented.

Many of the distinguished companies in the NMC line-up are led by Filipinos who are at the forefront of business growth and innovation. There is no doubt that local industry leaders today must not only follow this lead but shift into the role of global trendsetter. There is pride in being Filipino and this world-class conference is a manifestation of what we can accomplish when innovation is at work.

I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the NMC Committee for their hard work and dedication. I am so proud to be a part of an event that can activate a business revolution towards international recognition. Let us show the world the creativity and passion that are uniquely Filipino!

E[illegible]Y P. DE GUZMAN
EVP and Director-in-charge, 37th NMC
PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION



Roger Enrico, the former chairman of Pepsico once said, "Beware of the tyranny of making small changes to small things. Rather, make big changes to big things."

This has inspired the organizing committee to take this bold step in creating a truly innovative marketing conference.

"All That Jazz" is all about Improvisation. And all our efforts were geared towards delivering that unique brand story for the conference.

The great business innovators from Ayala Land, BMW, Nokia, PLDT, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Sun Life of Canada, Abbott, BBDO Guerrero Ortega, French Baker, VentureRepublic, Good Thinking and the Asian Institute of Management, will open windows of insights to inspire all delegates.

Creative geniuses from Lolodad's, Lor Calma Design, House of Laurel and Stages Productions will provide unusual stimuli to marketing theories.

Imagine a conference where the speakers are introduced by a live jazz band. And as an encore, the best jazz vocalist in the world.

Imagine a conference where all your senses will be tickled. Take the ultimate driving machine for a test drive. Feast your eyes on Impressionist paintings. Experiment with the latest mobile phones. Test your audio intelligence. Take unique photographs.

And all that jazz …

JOS ORTEGA
Chairman / CEO
BrandLab

The Great Innovators

Rene Almendras

Joerg Bauer

Lorenzo Tan

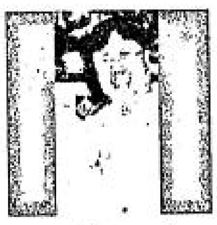
Sandeep Khanna

Paul Roebuck

JJ Roces

Ed Calma

Rajo Laurel


Ariel Manuel

Martin Roll

Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez

Butch Jimenez

Edwin Feist

Johnlu Koa

Issa Baron

Audie Gemora

Day One

(May 18, 2006)

0730 - 0900	Registration
0900 - 1000	Welcome Remarks: "Move Up to World Class" PMA Theme by Tom Banguis, PMA President Opening Ceremony Erly de Guzman, PMA EVP "All That Jazz" Theme by Jos Ortega, PMA NMC Overall Chair
1000 - 1100	"The Art of Innovation" by Rene Almendras, President, Cebu Holdings Inc. and VP/Group Head, Operation Transformation Group, Ayala Land Inc.
1100 - 1200	"The Brand as the Central Operating Principle" by Joerg Breuer, President, BMW Philippines
1200 - 0115	Networking Lunch Sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer
0115 - 0130	Philippine Marketing Association Announcements
0130 - 0230	"Driving Innovations Investment with Fiscal Soundness" by Lorenzo Tan, President & CEO, Sun Life of Canada
0230 - 0330	"Market Leadership through Product Innovations" by Sandeep Khanna, Marketing Director, Nokia Philippines
0330 - 0400	Take Five: Coffee Break
0400 - 0500	"Work that Works" by Paul Roebuck, Chief Consultant, BBDO Guerrero Ortega
0500 - 0600	"Creativity Across Borders" with Ed Calma of Lor Calma Design, Ariel Manuel of Lolodad's and Rajo Laurel of House of Laurel; hosted by JJ Roces, Professor, Asian Institute of Management Day 2 Announcements

Day Two

(May 19, 2006)

0830 - 0900	Morning Jazz
0900 - 1000	"Asian Brand Strategy: A New Boardroom Paradigm" by Martin Roll, Author of "Asian Brand Strategy" and President of VentureRepublic
1000 - 1100	"Unusual Strategic Partnerships" by Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, President, Philippine Daily Inquirer
1100 - 1200	"Building a Culture of Innovation" by Butch Jimenez SVP, Retail Business Group, PLDT
1200 - 0115	Networking Lunch
0115 - 0130	Philippine Marketing Association Announcements
0130 - 0230	"The Road Ahead for the Philippine Pharmaceutical Industry" by Edwin Feist President, Abbott Philippines and Regional Director, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand
0230 - 0330	"Creative Entrepreneurship that Builds Long–Lasting Brands" by Johnlu Koa, Founder and CEO, French Baker
0330 - 0400	Take Five: Coffee Break
0400 - 0500	"New Research Techniques in an Innovative Environment" by Issa Baron, Managing Partner, Good Thinking
0500 - 0600	"The Boardroom Is Your Stage" by Audie Gemora, President, Stages Production Inc. Cocktails... and All That Jazz

Conference Design by BrandLab

Organizing Committee:

DIRECTOR - Erlinda B. de Guzman
President & Founder
Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM)

OVERALL CHAIR - Jos Ortega
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab

OVERALL CO-CHAIR - Ruby T. Ramores
President & CEO
BrandPartner Inc.

PROGRAM CHAIR - Edwin C. Mapanao
Marketing Director
UTS (Unilab Animal Health Group)

MARKETING CHAIR - Maeyeth C. Cadungog
Marketing Manager
PAX Associated Marketing & Management Services

MARKETING CO-CHAIR - Nike A. Mora
Marketing Director
ANIMO MARKETING, INC.

ADMIN CHAIR - Sonia E. de Guzman
President
GRAND LINK VENTURES

CO-CHAIR ADMIN - Gwen C. Albarracin
COO / Vice President
CENTER FOR POP MUSIC PHILIPPINES, INC.

WAYS & MEANS-CHAIR - Rene R. Reinoso
SVP Sales & Marketing
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

EXHIBIT CHAIR - Ting I. Samonte
Vice President / Manager
DIRECT MARK COMMUNICATIONS
/ RFG & COMPANY CPA'S

FINANCE CHAIR - Herminio J. del Rosario
Retail Training & Marketing Consultant
SUPER EAST ASIA

STAGING CHAIR – Joel G. Jimenez
SVP
GMA MARKETING PRODUCTIONS, INC.

STAGING CO CHAIR – Edmond S. Alcaraz
President
ALTA PRODUCTION GROUP, INC.

Thanks to all our Sponsors

Philippine Daily Inquirer
GMA
audioWAV
Megaworld
Home 97.9 Manila Radio
BusinessMirror
Monster Radio RX93.1
www.yehey.com
BrandLab
ALTA Productions Group, Inc. A GMA Network Subsidiary
citibank
PLDT
Nokia Connecting People
The Philippine Plaza
Flash Media
The Brain
PTI
Spring Global Mall
Chowking
Carlo Rossi
Centrex Corporation
Faber-Castell

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
MOVE UP TO WORLD-CLASS
Kaya Natin!

Move Up to World-Class. Kaya Natin.

2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION

President
TOMAS C. BANGUIS
President
AB COMMUNICATIONS

EVP/Director, National Marketing Conference
ERLINDA B. DE GUZMAN
President & Founder
GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT FOUNDATION

VP Membership
LIZANNE C. UYCHACO
SVP & Chief Marketing Officer
PHILAMLIFE

VP Chapters
ALEXANDER L. FLORES
AVP Marketing
COCOPLANS, INC.

VP Education
FREDERICK M. ALEGRE
VP Corporate Affairs
BUSINESS MIRROR/ PHILIPPINE GRAPHIC PUBLICATIONS, INC.

VP Youth & Academe
VIRGILIO G. AJERO
Marketing Manager
CHOWKING FOODS CORPORATION

Board Secretary
JAIME K. SIYBAUCO
President
ACEPHIL, INC.

Treasurer/Ways and Means
HERMINIO DJ. DEL ROSARIO
Marketing Consultant
SUPER EAST ASIA (PENTAX)

Internal Auditor/Director, for Corporate Communications
CERGEN D. GO
President
DANCERG MKTG & PROMOTIONS SERVICES

Director, 2006 National Marketing Month
EDITH D. DYCHIAO
Vice President
BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK

Director, Meetings & Attendance
GINA R. LUENGAS
Associate Director
AC NIELSEN

Director, Fellowships & Sports
ARLENE P. MARTINEZ
Country General Manager
DIRECT LINK WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION PTE LTD

Director, 27th Agora Awards
MYLENE ABIVA-SAZON
CEO
FELTA MULTI-MEDIA, INC.

Director, Government, Consumer and Community Affairs
VIVIAN R. FAUSTINO
VP Marketing
STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

Director, Agora Conference
EDWIN C. MAPANAO
Marketing Director
UTS (UNILAB ANIMAL HEALTH GROUP)

Immediate Past President
DONALD PATRICK L. LIM
President & CEO
WWW.YEHEY.COM

The association is determined to inculcate this mindset among its membership and the marketing practitioners in general, through programs throughout the year that will inspire, stimulate, and nourish a world-class attitude and way of doing marketing!

"World-class" defines a clear performance standard which will enable local marketers to level the playing field with the global players. It is an exacting, demanding, and strict criterion.

This is a bold aspiration which the logo reflects with the use of big, bold and strong letters.

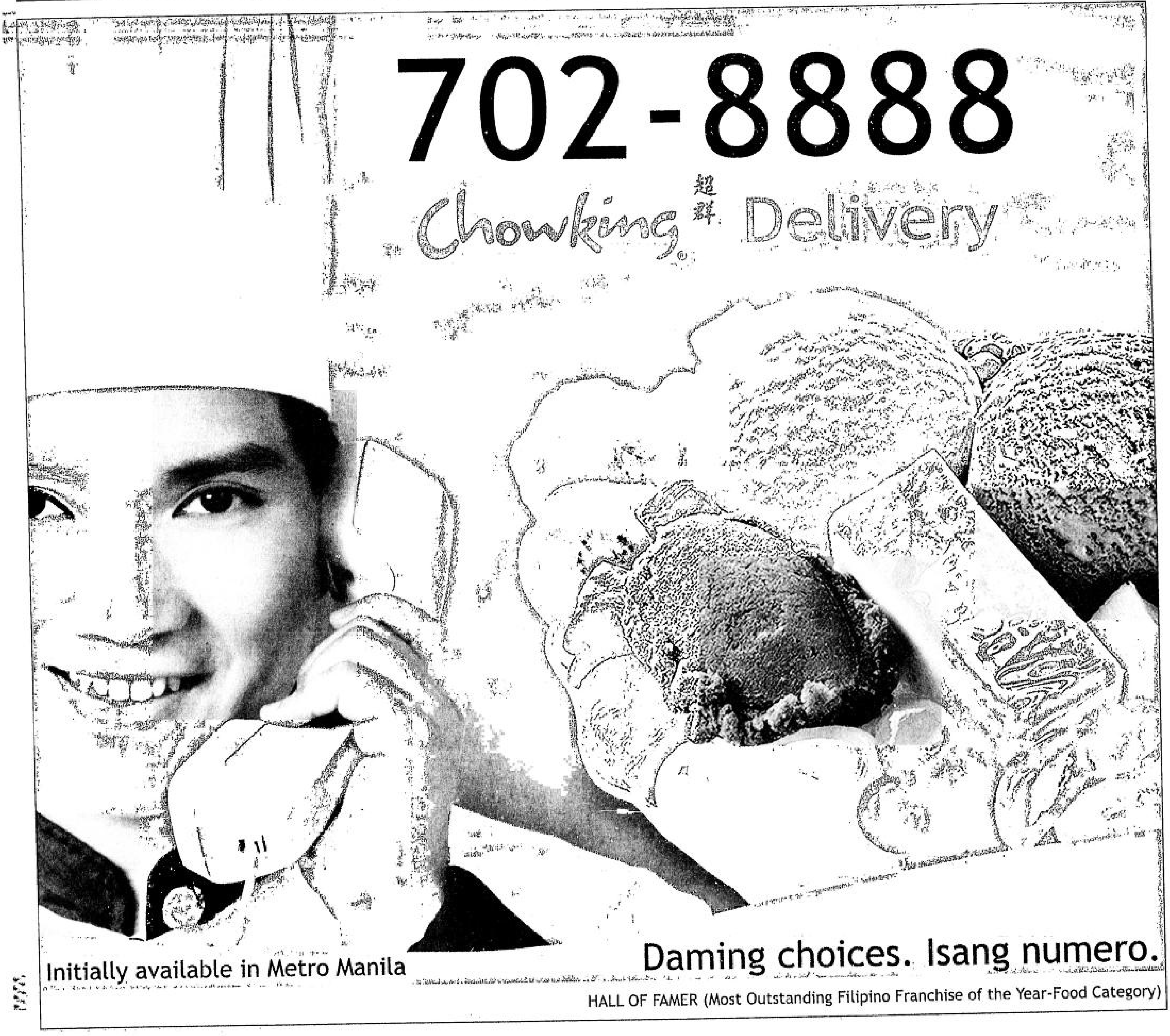
"Can Filipino-owned marketing companies measure up to world-class standards?

The answer, proudly, is "Of course! Jolibee, Globe Telecoms, PLDT and Smart, Ayala Corporation, San Miguel Corporation, URC Corporation are world-class Filipino companies, just to name a few."

As these and other Filipino-owned companies have shown the world, Kaya Natin!

And the theme captures this spirit, with confidence, by integrating the statement in the logo!

ALL THAT JAZZ
World Class Innovations


702-8888
Chowking 超群 Delivery
Initially available in Metro Manila
Daming choices. Isang numero.
HALL OF FAMER (Most Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year-Food Category)

The Resort Experience.

Meet in a five-star hotel ◆ Play golf ◆ Unwind in a spa ◆ Work out ◆ Dine on East-West cuisine ◆ Shop and play ◆ Experience it all in a resort-in-the-city that is your home ◆

Sarasota

The newest phase of

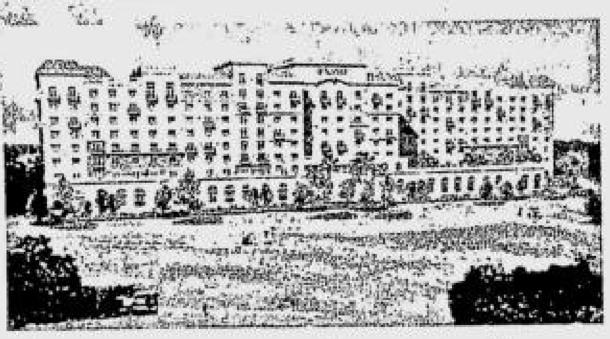
The Residential Resort at Newport City

The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences

Gozar Street, Newport City, Pasay City

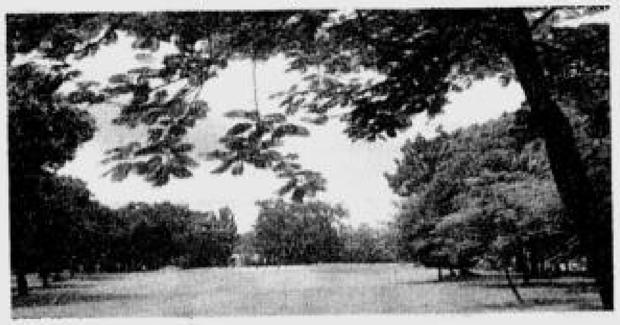
Live everyday a fresh new way, with a feeling of adventure and fun, in your home within a resort. Right next to...

the ***Marriott Hotel...***



Where you can experience five-star luxury any time of day. Here, 350 elegantly appointed rooms are matched by business centers and luxurious leisure amenities.

the ***Villamor Golf Course...***



A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 green. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the sprawling landscape.

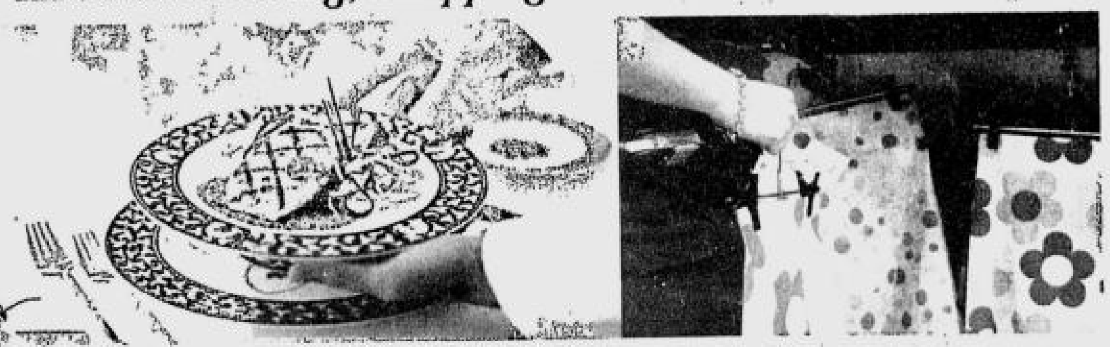
a luxurious indoor ***Spa...***

Where you can unwind amid top-notch therapeutic facilities, heat and exercise pools and aromatherapy and massage rooms.

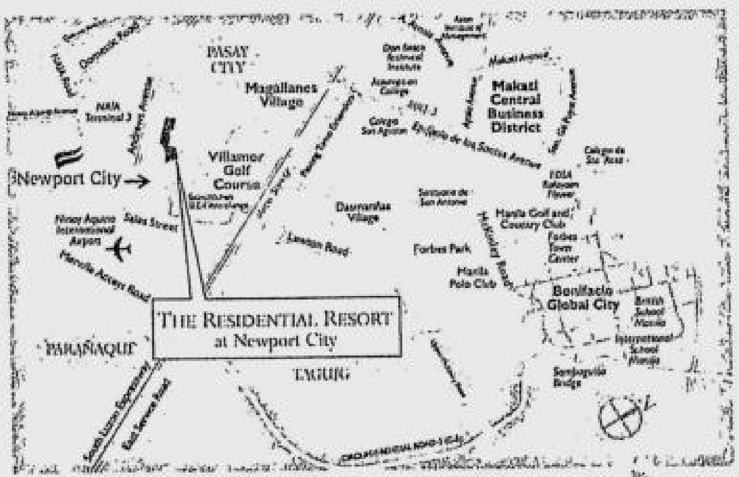
a modern ***Fitness Center...***

The whole family will enjoy hours of healthy recreation with first-rate amenities including a gym, adult and children's swimming pools, tennis and badminton courts and landscaped play areas.

and a themed ***Dining, Shopping and Entertainment Complex.***



Explore a streetscape of international restaurants, stylish boutiques and alfresco cafés with live performances—all within walking distance from home.


PASAY CITY
Magallanes Village
Makati Central Business District
Villamor Golf Course
Newport City
NAIA Terminal 3
Ninoy Aquino International Airport
Sales Street
Dasmariñas Village
Lawton Road
Forbes Park
Manila Polo Club
Manila Golf and Country Club
Bonifacio Global City
THE RESIDENTIAL RESORT at Newport City
PARAÑAQUE
TAGUIG

At Sarasota, discover the privileges of living close to nature in a Mediterranean-style resort setting inspired by Lake Las Vegas. Choose from an executive studio, 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom home, with wide windows and balconies.

The elegant, earth-toned residential buildings are no more than 9 stories high, so air can flow freely. Each building boasts its own lobby and ample basement parking. Aside from a guarded entrance gate, a tree-lined perimeter fence encloses the entire community. The interior roads are wide and made safe for children.

And the homes are clustered around the play amenities, making it easy for neighbors to get together at the lap pool, putting green, fitness station or tennis court. Or at the sitting area and the aviary with benches. Children, too, will enjoy hours of fun in their own pool and play areas.

Join us on May 21, Sunday,
9 AM to 5 PM, at the Newport City
Grand Showroom.

Own this
2-bedroom unit
for as low as
₱23,000
a month.

Exclusive Marketing Arm:

Megaworld Newport
Property Holdings, Inc.

Newport City Information Centre, Newport City, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

(632) 855-7580 • 855-7583 • 855-7594 • 855-7586

For Announcement Purposes Only